

2023 FOOTBALL PREVIEW ISSUE

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED


ALSO INSIDE

TERRY PRICE
DAT NGUYEN
AND MORE...


CONNER
WEIGMAN



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • \$3.95





GEORGE H.W. BUSH
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM




KYLE FIELD
HOME OF THE 12TH MAN

**A Spirit Can Ne'er Be Told...
A Century of Aggie Football**

George & Barbara
BUSH FOUNDATION



VISIT THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EXHIBIT
AUGUST 28, 2023 - APRIL 28, 2024
IN THE ANSARY GALLERY OF AMERICAN HISTORY

VISIT BUSH41.ORG



A BRUSH ABOVE SERVICES



**SERVING THE PAINT, DRYWALL, AND CONSTRUCTION NEEDS OF
COLLEGE STATION RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES SINCE 2005!**

CALL US AT: (979) 704-3077 OR VISIT ABAS.BUILD FOR MORE INFO!



ROB HAVENS '88

CONTENTS

FEATURES

16

AGGIE LEGEND TERRY PRICE PASSES AWAY

Coaches, friends, and family say
goodbye to TP.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

17

TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL PREVIEW

We break down by position the 2023
team.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

20

FOOTBALL OPPONENTS PREVIEW

We check out all 12 teams the Aggies
face this fall.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

26

"ALL AMERICAN | THE DAT NGUYEN STORY"

AI gets a sneak peek at the full-length
documentary.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

29

A&M SPORT CLUBS EARN 5 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY ROB HAVENS '88

IN EVERY ISSUE

Publisher's Note	04
Snapshots	06
Scoreboard	12
The 12th Man	30

ON THE COVER: Conner Weigman prepares
to lead the Aggies in his second year with
the team. Photo by Rob Havens '88

Howdy Ags!

Well, the summer is almost over, and Aggie football is just around the corner. This is always a great issue to work on as I get to do a lot of research on the teams we will play this fall and then do a position breakdown of our football team. As I looked back over last season, I was reminded of how crazy it was and how just one or two plays in a game can make all of the difference. The Aggies were literally one play away from beating Alabama in Tuscaloosa last year. We needed the help of a goal post to escape Jerry World with a win over Arkansas. Jimbo always talks about trying to gain a few more inches every play. Last season we were within six points of going 10-2 instead of 5-7. Despite the tough 2023 schedule, we have the talent and coaching to achieve something special. Last year we put Haynes King, Max Johnson, and Conner Weigman on the cover of our football preview issue. We never would have believed that all three would start during the year in order for us to get through it. Last year we were one of the youngest teams in the country. Due to injuries and suspensions, we had to play a lot of young players. As a result, a lot of guys got a lot of experience. This year we return 16 starters, the most of any team in the SEC. If we can stay healthy, this team can be really good! We are ecstatic to welcome back "Sub Zero" Ainiias Smith on offense and fifth-year starter Demani Richardson on defense. Bobby Petrino knows how to score points and has the most talented set of offensive players he has ever coached. Our team defeated LSU in last season's final game, so we should enter game one with confidence! The Aggies travel to Miami, Knoxville, Oxford, and Baton Rouge. It's time for this team to show the country what Aggie Football is all about!

Gig'em!

Rob '88



• Aggie Football
• Parents' Weekend
• Graduation

P.A. SMITH HOTEL

Voted Best Hotel in Brazos Valley

Designated 4 Diamond

Conveniently 15 minutes from Kyle Field

Complimentary shuttle to Aggie football games

www.thesmithnavasota.com

**EXPERIENCE THE EXPERIENCED
- NOT THE EXPERIMENT -
OF AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE**

WWW.CARDOCBCS.COM

Open M-F 8-6 Sat 8-4 • Ask about our 2 year/24,000 mile labor warranty

CarDoc

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

979-693-8575

204-A Harvey Rd. • College Station



FOR REAL-TIME UPDATES ON ALL THINGS AGGIE SPORTS,
BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER!



@AGGIELANDILLUSTRATED



@AGGIEMAG

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Rob Havens '88
rob@aggiemag.com | 979.229.8046

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Pyatt '14

COPY EDITORS

Chelsea O'Neal Sweat '17
Ali Mueller '23

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Sarah Pyatt '14

Aggieland Illustrated is an independently owned, Aggie owned and operated publication and in no way reflects the views or opinions of Texas A&M University.

Aggieland Illustrated (ISSN 1932-9105) is published six times a year in the United States by Aggie Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publication are welcome but will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Address all subscription inquiries and change of address requests to Aggie Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Allow up to eight weeks for response.

©2006-2013 AGGIELAND ILLUSTRATED
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Volume 18, Number 1

979-229-8046
www.aggiemag.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$18
OR 2 YEARS FOR \$32

FOUR EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE:

BY PHONE: Call us at 979-229-8046

BY MAIL: Send your name, address and payment (check or credit card) to: Aggie Illustrated Magazine, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841

ONLINE: Visit www.aggiemag.com

QR CODE: Scan this QR Code for quick and easy access to our subscription page



CALL BINFORD FOR ALL YOUR PEST CONTROL NEEDS!



AGGIE OWNED AND OPERATED
FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE CLASS OF '70, '95 & 2020

BUGGIN' BUGS SINCE 1947
binfordinsectcontrol.com
979-822-5524



YOUR KEY TO THE BRAZOS VALLEY

exp
REALTY

key
KELLY E. YATES
REALTOR



PROUD AGGIE MOM

KYATESREALTOR@GMAIL.COM | 979.446.4739
KELLYYATES.EXPREALTY.COM | RESIDENTIAL / INVESTMENT

Planning a trip to AggieLand and don't know where to start?



DESTINATION
AGGIELAND



Visit Destination AggieLand in the Texas A&M app for maps, parking, traffic, shuttles & more!



Visit the app



25

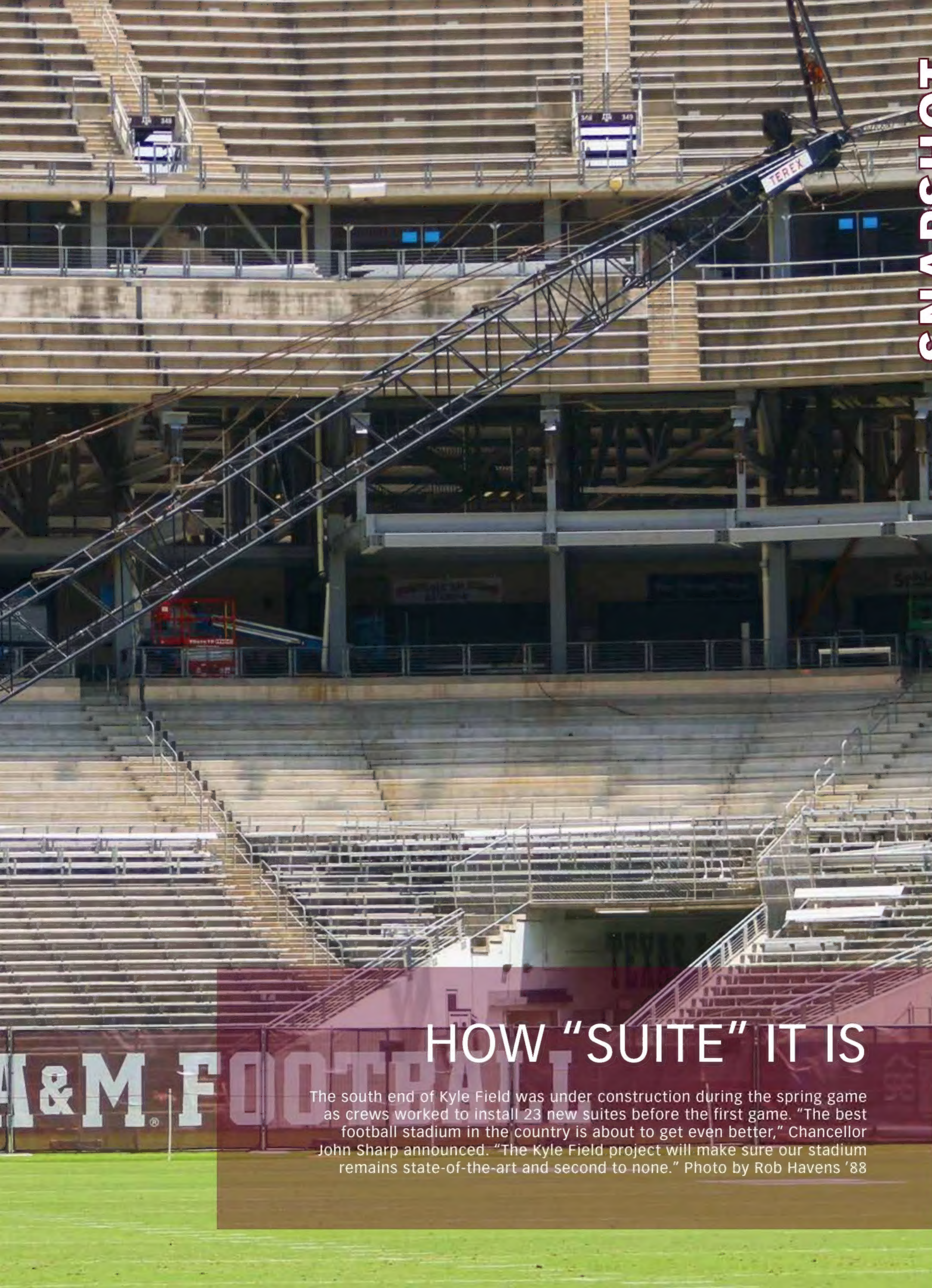
244

245

HC110



TEXAS A



HOW "SUITE" IT IS

The south end of Kyle Field was under construction during the spring game as crews worked to install 23 new suites before the first game. "The best football stadium in the country is about to get even better," Chancellor John Sharp announced. "The Kyle Field project will make sure our stadium remains state-of-the-art and second to none." Photo by Rob Havens '88



RELOAD

With the loss of Devon Achane to the NFL, the Aggies look to reload in the backfield. Sophomore running back Le'Veon Moss, who took home the Top Offensive Newcomer Award, Attitude Award, and Toughness Award at the annual team banquet, is ready to show what he can do in the running game. He is joined by Jr tailback Amari Daniels, Sr fullback Earnest Crownover, and the exciting newcomer of the bunch, true freshman Rueben Owens. Photo by Rob Havens '88

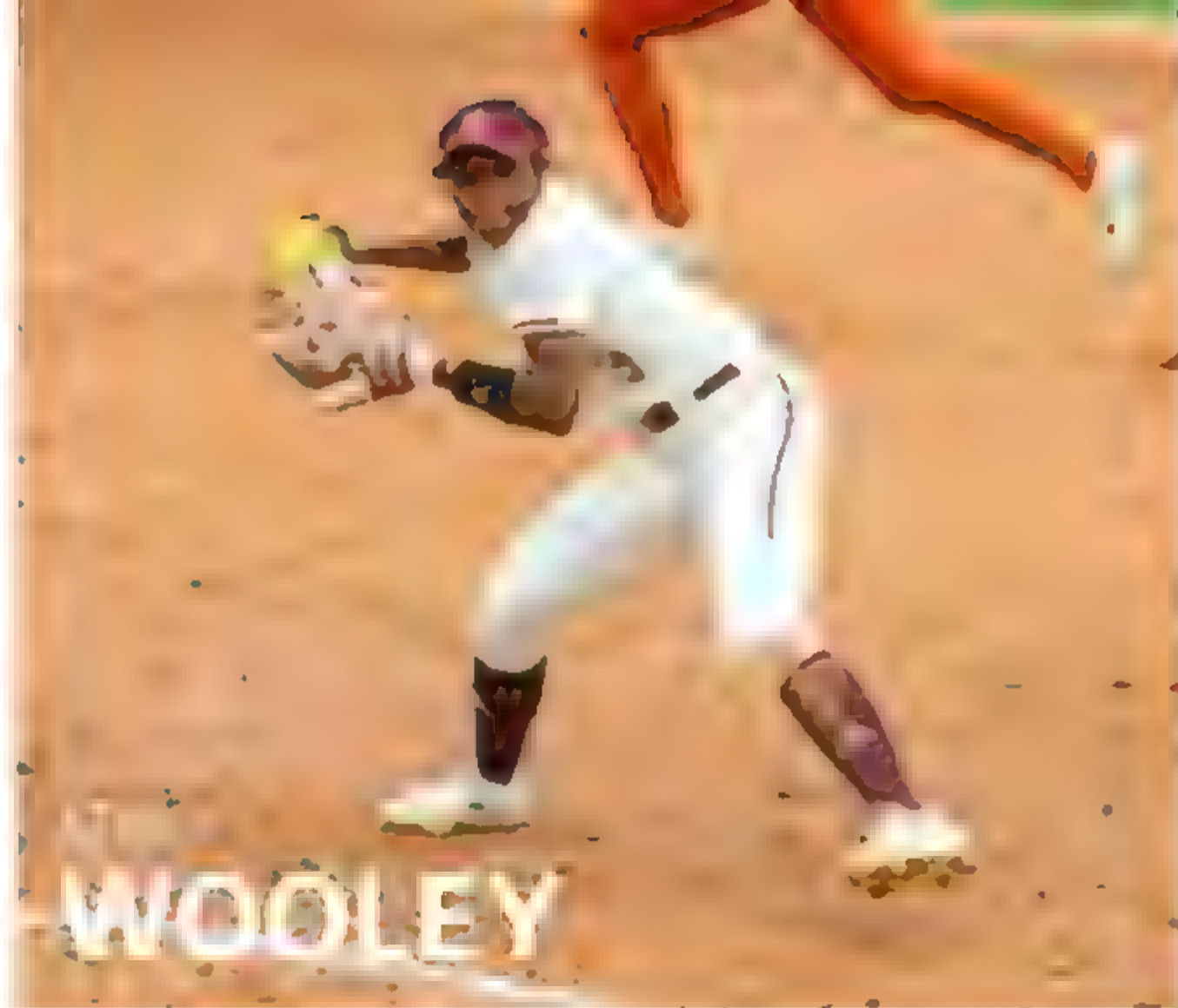


WELCOME BACK

Texas A&M graduate and Mr. Everything Ainas Smith is all smiles as he returns to the gridiron for one last ride! The all-purpose wide receiver had his senior season come to an abrupt halt last year during the win over Arkansas when he suffered a foot injury. The 12th Man is happy to welcome back the talented utility player who is a threat to score every time he touches the ball. We are confident the stands will be full of smiles this fall as Ainas runs back onto the field. Photo by Rob Havens '88



MORGAN
SMITH



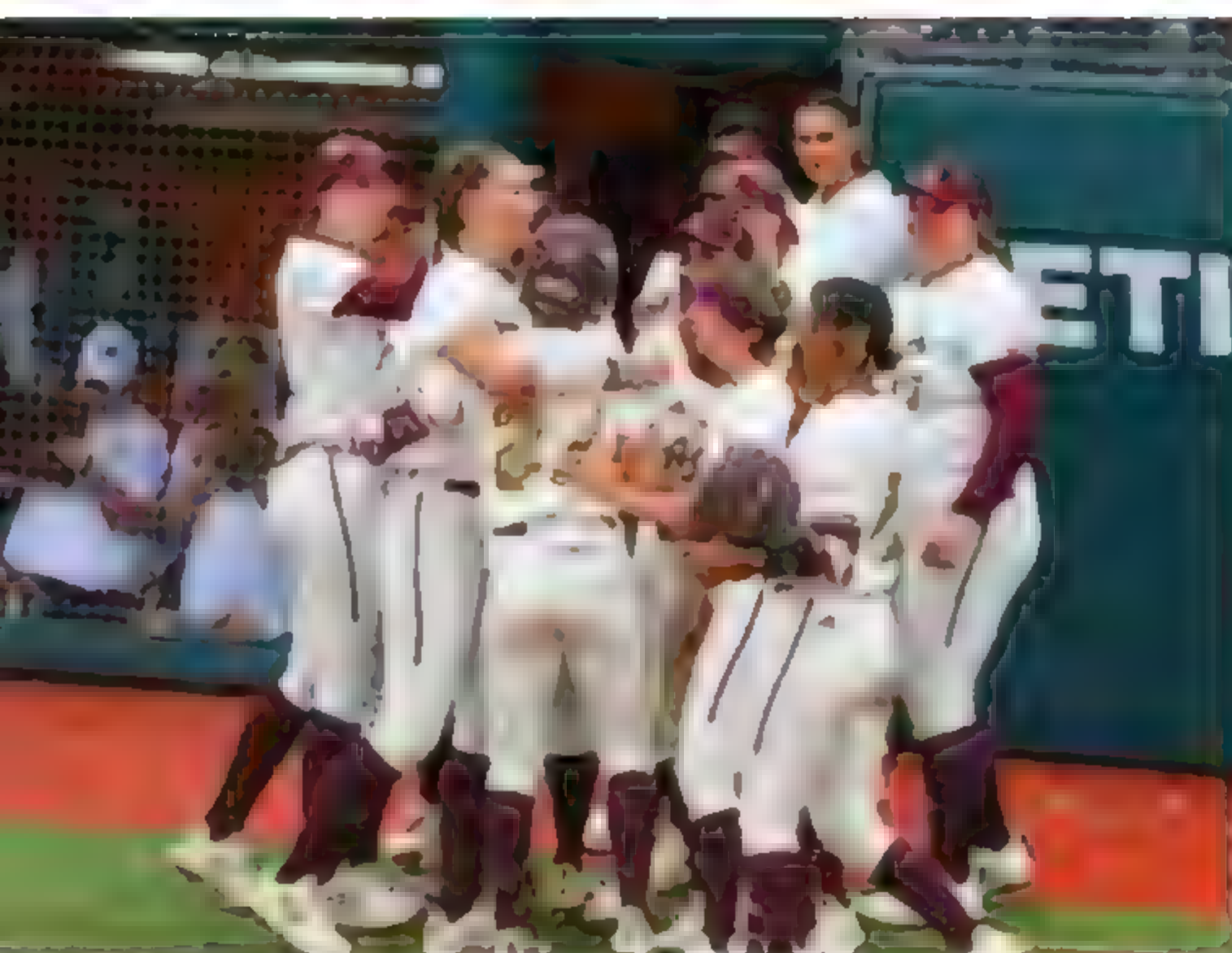
WOOLEY



WOOLEY



FINN
FERGUSON

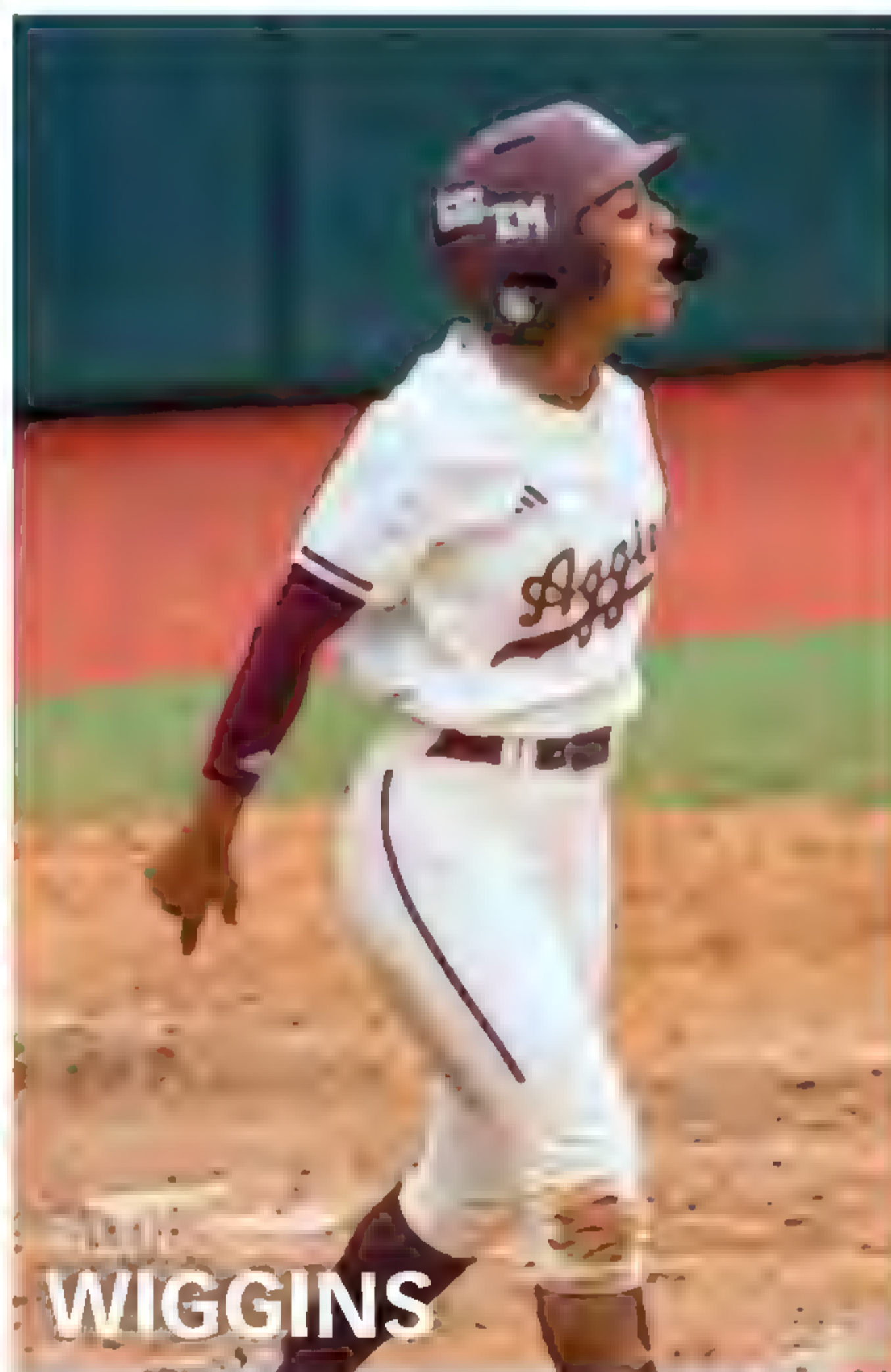


SOFTBALL

Under first-year coach Trisha Ford the Aggies earned their 21st straight NCAA appearance, which took place in Austin. The Aggies beat Texas State in walk-off fashion in the eighth inning of game one by scoring 2-1. The win earned the team a shot at the host school and the #8 team in the nation, Texas, for game two. The Ags lost a close one, 2-1 but bounced back in game three against Texas State (4-2) to get another chance against the Horns. On a rainy Sunday afternoon in Austin, the season came to an end as the Horns won 11-5. The team showed improvement throughout the year, and Trisha Ford and staff proved they can get things done in Aggieland. The future looks bright for our softball program.



FINN
VALENTINE



FINN
WIGGINS



EMILEY
KENNEDY



MARY
STOIANA



DARIA
SMETANNIKOV



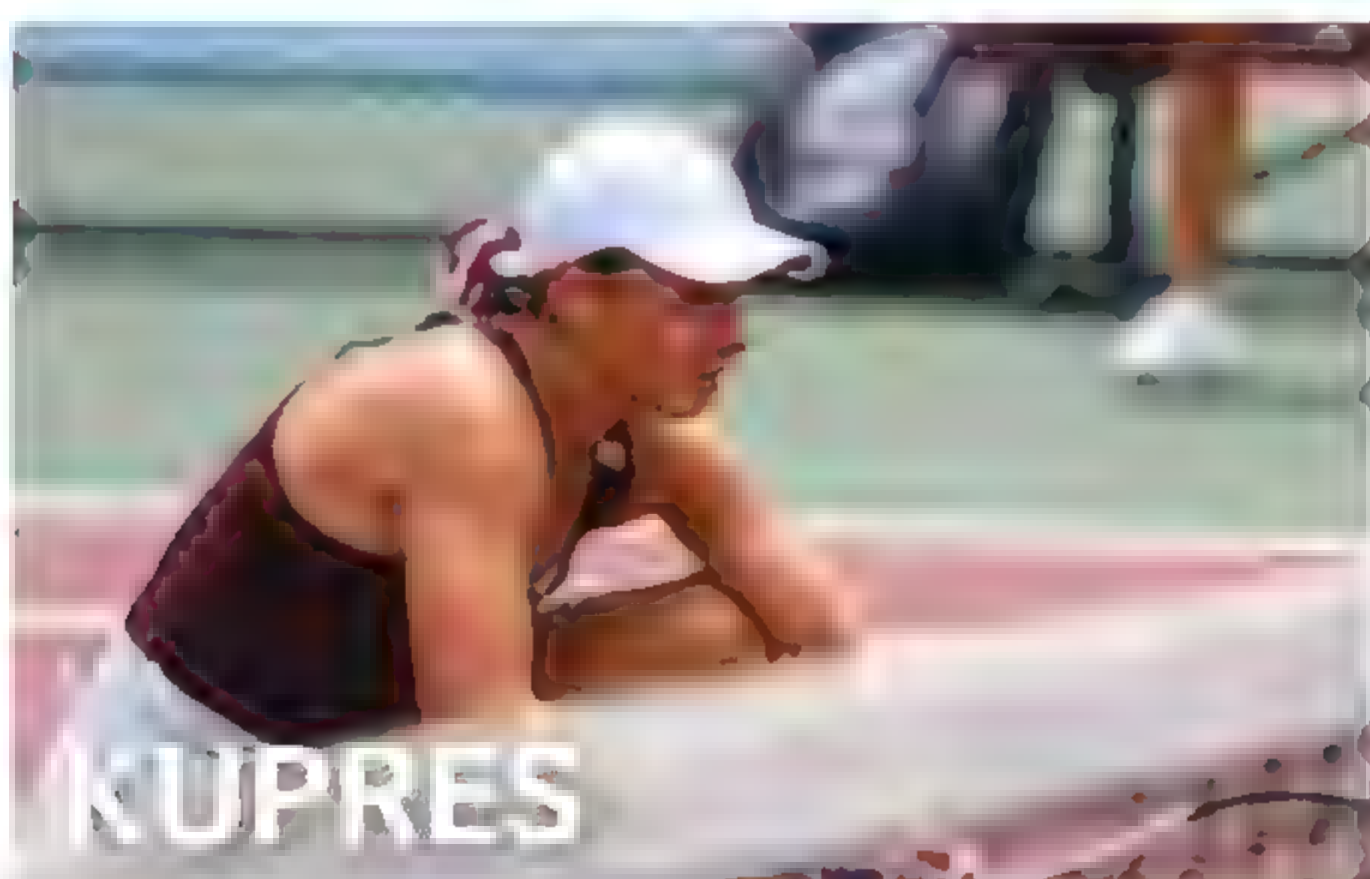
ISABELLA
MIRELES

WOMEN'S TENNIS

After another incredible regular season that resulted in an SEC Championship, the Aggies earned the #2 overall seed in the NCAA tournament. The Ags swept the Quinnipiac Bobcats in round one and then swept the #39 Baylor Bears to advance to the round of 16 for the fourth straight year. In the Sweet 16, the Aggies battled against SEC foe Tennessee and came out on top 4-1 to make it to the Elite Eight for their second year in a row. Unfortunately, perennial powerhouse Stanford upset our Aggies 4-0 to end the season. This team continues to raise the bar and improve every year. It won't be long before Coach Mark Weaver and this program bring home a national championship!



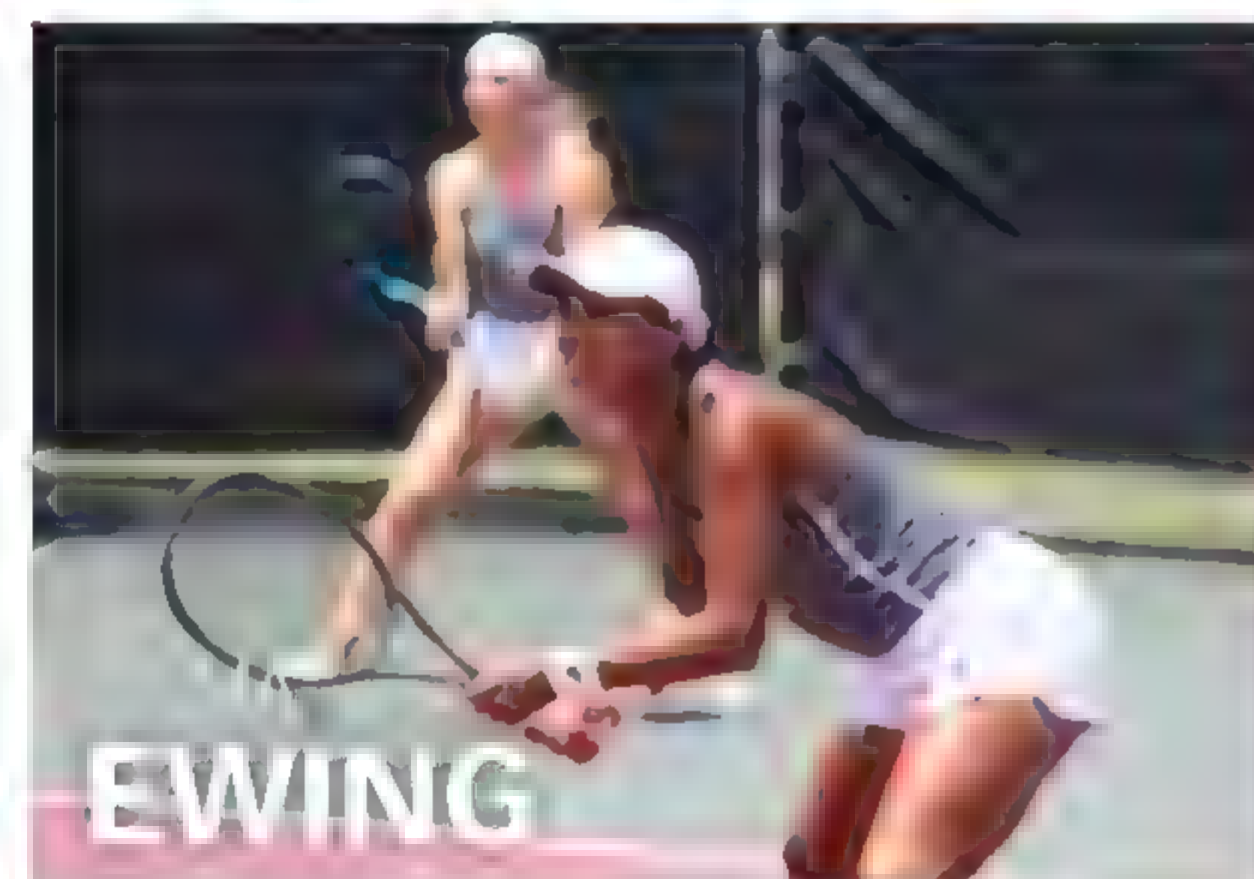
JAYCI
GOLDSMITH



KUPRES



COACH MARK
WEAVER



EWING



GIANNA
PIELET

WE MAKE LOANS, NOT EXCUSES.

Commercial

Personal

Home

citybankonline.com

(979) 268-2265

1409 University Dr. East

College Station, 77840



City Bank

Equal Housing Lender Member FDIC
This is not a commitment

**DEPENDABLE CARS.
DEPENDABLE DEALER.**

Serving Aggieland for over 30 years



HONDA

ALLEN HONDA



THE CORNER OF SOUTHWEST PKWY AND HIGHWAY 6
TOLL FREE (866) 680-2424 • WWW.ALLENHONDA.COM

Chicken
 **EXPRESS**

Aggie Owned & Operated

Two Convenient Locations in College Station:

710 Earl Rudder Frwy. S. at University
979-846-7781

12875 Wellborn/FM 2154
979-764-7781

New Location in Bryan:

401 S. Texas Ave at 29th Street
979-823-5222

**JACK WINSLOW
BODY SHOP**

SERVING AGGIELAND FOR OVER 62 YEARS

- FREE ESTIMATES -
- INSURANCE CLAIMS WELCOME -
- OPEN 8:30-5:30 M-F



1400 KRAMER RD • COLLEGE STATION, TX 77840
WWW.JACKWINSLOWBODYSHOP.COM



SDAO



TUCKER

BASEBALL

The Aggies got on a roll at the end of the season, taking two out of three from Mississippi State. The team went on to Hoover and defeated #13 Tennessee, South Carolina, eventual national champion LSU, and #4 Arkansas to advance to the SEC tournament championship game. Texas A&M earned an at-large bid into the NCAA tournament and was sent out west to the Stanford Regional. The Aggies hammered Cal State Fullerton 12-7 and then beat the host team, #6 Stanford, 8-5 to advance to the regional championship. Unfortunately, the Aggies lost back-to-back games to Stanford, and their season came to an end. On July 10th, Coach Schlossnagle announced that he had hired Max Weiner as the Aggies' new pitching coach.



TARGAC



TROY
WANSING



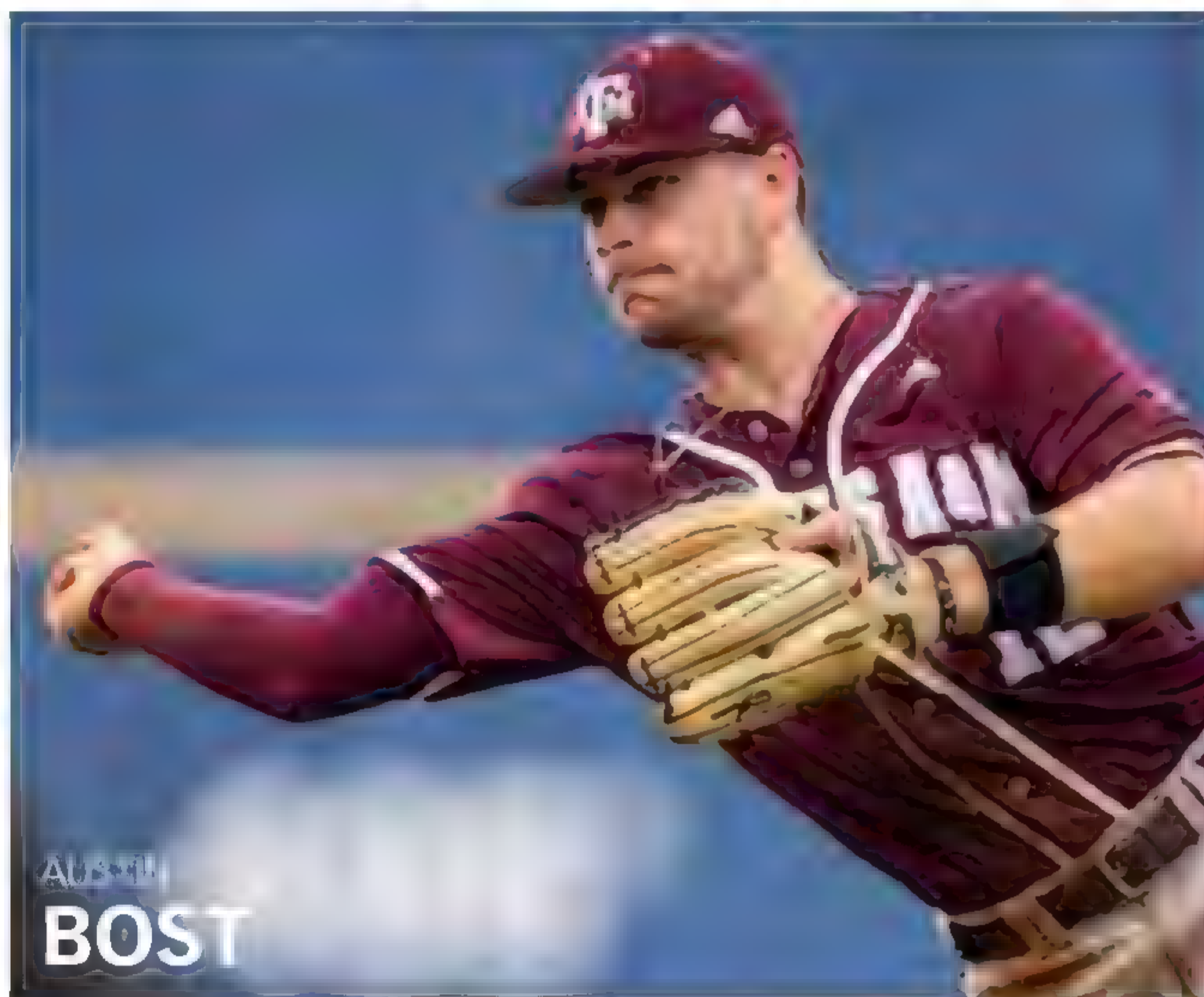
WERNER



ERET
MINNICH



LAVIOLETTE



AUSTIN
BOST



TERRY PRICE

AN AGGIE LEGEND BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD PASSES AWAY

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The Aggie Family lost one of its very best on Friday, June 23, 2023. Terry Price, known around Aggieland as "TP," left an indelible impression on all that knew him. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 5, 1968, and played high school football at Plano High School in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. He was recruited by Coach Jackie Sherrill and played defensive line under the direction of R.C. Slocum. Price was a four-year letterman (1986-89) and led the team in tackles his junior and senior years. He was voted All-SWC and earned honorable mention All-America honors by The Sporting News in his senior year.

TP was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the 10th round of the 1990 NFL Draft and played two years in the league. After a year with the Bears and another with the Dolphins, Price returned to College Station to finish his degree and begin his coaching career.

Terry coached for two seasons under Coach Slocum before moving on to Western Kentucky, where he became a strength coach and coached the defensive line. Price

would go on to coach at Ole Miss and Auburn before moving back to Aggieland to join Kevin Sumlin's staff in 2012. Since then, Price has continued to be a defensive line coach at Texas A&M.

Not only was TP an amazing coach, but he was an excellent recruiter. He played a huge part in bringing some of the best talents in the nation to Aggieland and then developing them into NFL-caliber players. Price recruited and coached Texas A&M's only No. 1 overall NFL Draft pick, Myles Garrett. Price built relationships with his players and their families. He was hard on them, but he loved them and did his best to develop them into the best players, husbands, and fathers they would someday become.

At his celebration of life service Coach Sherrill recalled how much Terry loved his family. He remembered how amazing he was when they would visit the children's hospital in Houston and what a gift he had to make them laugh. He also talked about how he got to coach against Terry about nine times after Price became a coach. As Sherrill's

voice trembled, he explained, "After every game, Terry was the first person to come up to me; he grabbed me and said, "Coach, I love you."

Coach R.C. Slocum talked about his recruiting process with his high school coach, family, and Terry and how he was the only recruit he's ever had before or since that wore a coat and tie for his official visit. He also recalled what a great influence he was on the other players. As RC finished addressing the friends and family, he spoke about praying with Terry at the very end and how tears rolled down his cheeks. Then RC reminded everyone that he was in a place with no more tears and no more sadness. RC explained that he had a ticket to go see Terry one day and advised that everyone make sure they have a ticket as well.

Kevin Sumlin recalled running into Coach Price on the recruiting trail all over the country and that when he became the head coach at A&M, he knew he wanted him to join him. Sumlin drew laughs from the crowd as he shared the story of trying to get Terry to leave Texas Tech and return to Aggieland. He said, "He was a tier one coach, a tier one husband, a tier one family man, a tier one developer, everything; there's never been anybody I've come across that's had a bad thing to say about Terry Price."

Coach Jimbo Fisher said it was with a heavy heart that he was there, but as he began to get sad, he said he could hear Terry's voice over his shoulder say, "We ain't doing that today, Jimbo." Jimbo said they were there to celebrate his life. He said, "He was an unbelievable friend, husband, and father."

Friends, family, and current and former players gathered to pay their last respects. They were able to share stories about football and about living life with TP. Everyone pretty much agreed that Terry was up in heaven getting the barbeque ready for everyone. He was truly an Aggie legend. He loved A&M and left an amazing legacy that will never be forgotten. ■



There's nothing like seeing the sunrise in the morning after a terrible storm. In 2022 the Aggies suffered through what many folks would call the perfect storm. A season riddled with injuries, suspensions, and mistakes that resulted in a 5-7 record. Last year the Aggies lost at home to Appalachian State, went 2-6 in conference play, and missed out on going to a bowl game. It was their first losing season since 2009, when they went 6-7. After the season's final game, 31 players entered the transfer portal, and folks around the nation questioned what the heck was going on in College Station.

But things are not as dismal as one might think, and the sun is rising on a new season in Aggieland. The beginning of that sunrise actually started on November 26th of last year, when the 4-7 Aggies dominated the #6 team in the country before a sold-out crowd at Kyle Field. The Aggies finally put everything together and played their best game of the year, keeping the SEC Western Division Champion LSU Tigers out of the CFP playoffs and showing the nation what our team could do.

Although we lost some players to the portal, most of them were backup or suspended players who would not have been welcomed back to the team this fall. Sometimes a team can benefit from losing players that wouldn't have helped this team succeed this season. Addition by subtraction, and according to some of our current players, attitude change is needed for this team to win moving forward.

Jimbo Fisher and his staff went out and added some transfers of their own, and along with the new recruits that came to the team this spring and summer, the Aggies are still loaded with talent. The injuries and suspensions allowed some of our young talents to get some much-needed game experience, which should pay big dividends in 2023. The Aggies will have the most returning starters from any team in the SEC as the Aggies bring back eight starters on offense and eight starters on defense.

Last fall, the Aggies went into camp with a three-man competition at quarterback. All three of those men were needed to get the Aggies through the season, and all of them proved that they had the talent and ability to lead the team. The injury bug hampered us, and by the end of the season, it allowed Conner Weigman, who most believed was the future of the program, to get some much-needed experience that would pay off this year. Weigman proved in the LSU game that he could lead this team to where they wanted to be, completing 66% of his passes, throwing two touchdowns with no interceptions, and avoiding mistakes to lead the Aggies to their biggest win of the season. If Conner can continue to grow and improve, the sky's the limit for the Aggie offense.

The Aggies, fortunately, have some depth as well in the quarterback room as Max Johnson returns for his senior year. Johnson started three games for the Aggies last year before suffering a season-ending injury during the Mississippi State game. He completed 61% of his passes for 517 yards with three touchdowns. Fisher

2023 **TM** **FOOTBALL PREVIEW**

BY ROB HAVENS '88



feels very confident having Johnson under center. The Aggies welcome true freshman and four-star dual-threat quarterback Marcel Reed from Nashville, TN.

One of the biggest changes since last season is the addition of offensive coordinator Bobby Petrino, who is expected to be calling the plays this fall. Petrino's offenses put up big numbers at all of his previous spots, and the Aggies are hoping he can produce the same thing here, as he will probably have the most talented group of players he has ever coached.

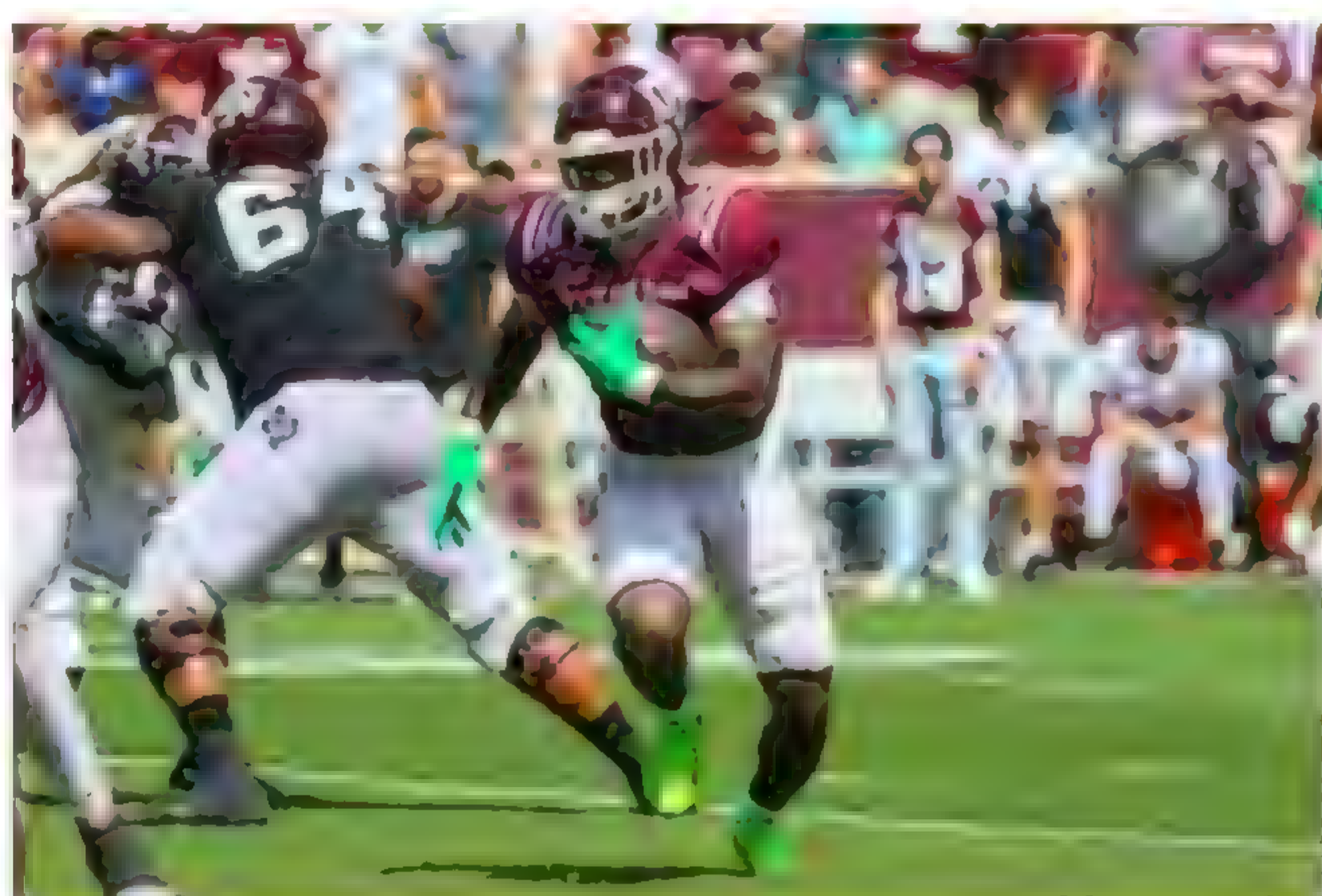
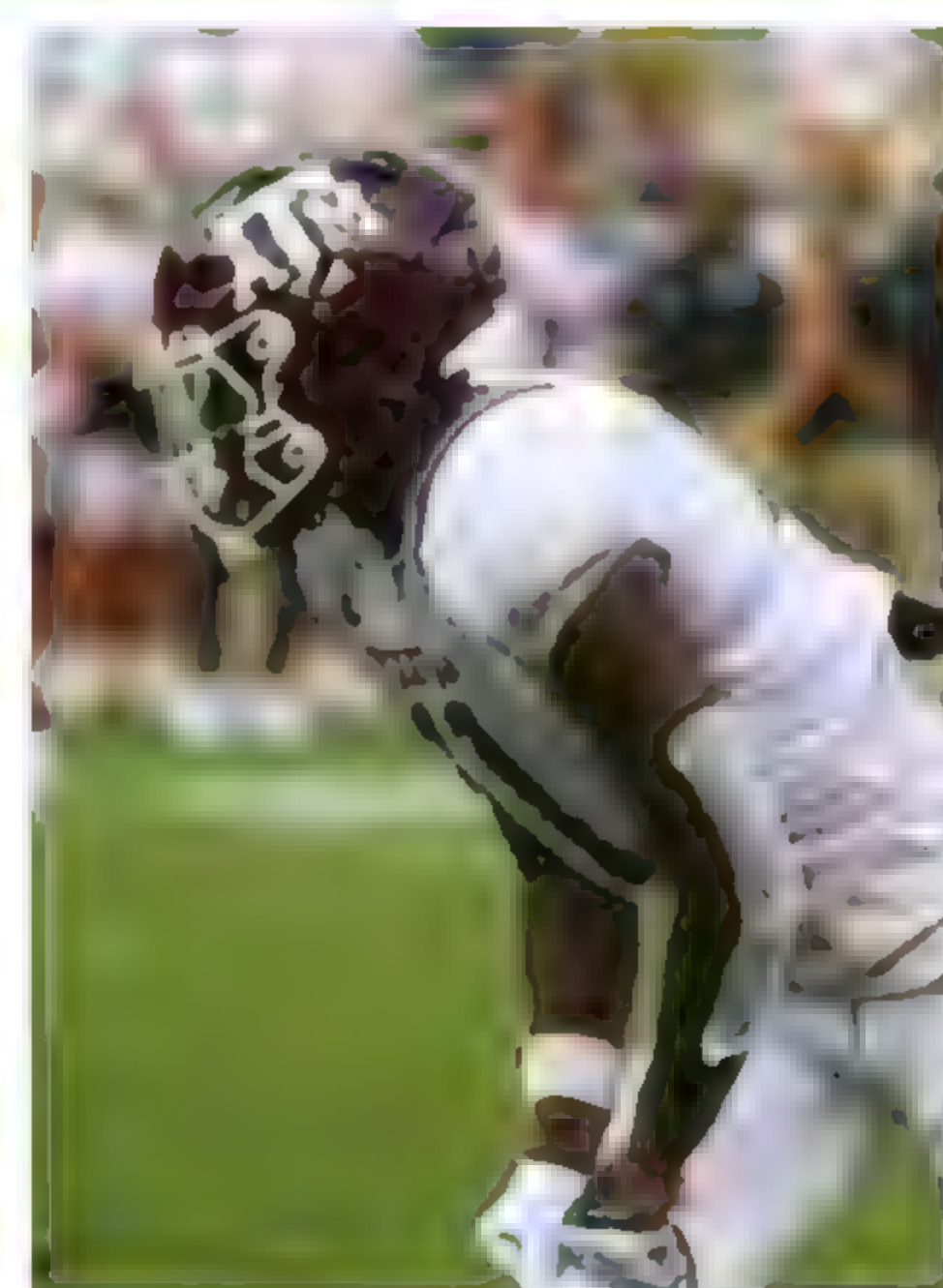
That talent began with one of the biggest surprises of the off-season when wide receiver Ainius Smith announced his return. Arguably the most talented athlete on the team, Smith has the ability to score from the wide-out position, running back, or even as a punt returner. Smith suffered a season-ending injury last year during the Arkansas game and looks forward to increasing his NFL Draft stock with another successful season at A&M.

The Aggies also welcome back two wide receivers that made huge plays for the Aggies last year, Evan Stewart and Moose Muhammad III. Noah Thomas drew rave reviews for his performance during spring ball, senior Jalen Preston is back for one more year, and freshman newcomer Micah Tease looked great in the spring game. We may have the most talented wide-receiving group that we have ever had.

One of the biggest holes to fill is at running back after the departure of Devon Achane who ran for over 200 yards in his final game at Texas A&M. Junior Amari Daniels is ready for his time to shine in the backfield this fall. He averaged over five yards a carry in limited action last year. Sophomore Le'Veon Moss will also compete for the starting job following his freshman campaign, in which he averaged 4.2 yards in 27 carries. The Aggies are also excited to welcome five-star true freshman Rueben Owens II to the mix, and based on his spring, he looks ready to play early. Returning fullback Earnest Crownover appeared in all 12 games for the Aggies last year and will be looking to open up more holes for our tailbacks this fall.

At tight end, the Aggies have 5th-year player Max Wright who has developed into one of the most consistent players on the team. The starter, Donovan Green, has become a huge piece in Jimbo's offense, and Jake Johnson returns in his second year with the program looking to make a difference this year. Also, look for true freshman Jaden Platt who, at 6'5 250, turned heads at spring practice.

No position on the team will probably benefit from another year's experience more than our offensive line. The success of this year's offense will come down to the guys up front led by Redshirt senior Layden Robinson. The absence of junior center Bryce Foster was deeply felt last year as he was unable to play in eight games. We hope to see him as a starter this fall beside LT Trey Zuhn III, LG Kam Dewberry, and RT Reuben Fatheree II. The Aggies returning with game experience include



Dametrious Crownover, Aki Ogunbiyi, Josh Bankhead, Remington Strickland, Jordan Spasojevic-Moko, and Mark Nabou. The Aggies also have freshmen Chase Bisontis, TJ Shanahan, Colton Thomasson, and Naquil Bertrand working hard to get some early playing time.

On the defensive side of the ball, the line should once again be one of the strongest positions on the team. It's not surprising that Coach Fisher would choose to take two defensive linemen to SEC Media Days. Senior McKinnley Jackson and edge rusher Fadil Diggs anchor an Aggie defense that returns eight starters from last year's team. Shemar Stewart, LT Overton, Isaiah Raikes, Albert Regis, Shemar Turner, Walter Nolen, Gabriel Brownlow-Dindy, Enai White, and Malick Sylla all return with another year of SEC experience and are prepared to dominate the line of scrimmage this year. Newcomers David Hicks and Rylan Kennedy are on campus and create even more depth on the line.

The linebackers are Chris Russell Jr., Edgerrin Cooper, and Martrell Harris Jr. The Aggies also signed a trio of linebackers in the 2023 class that included Taurean York, Daymion Sanford, and Chantz Johnson. The Aggies also picked up Jurriente Davis from Jackson State and Aidan Siano from Rice via the transfer portal.

One of the best pick-ups during the offseason was senior cornerback Tony Grimes. Jimbo got to see this talented young man up close when the Aggies took on the Tar Heels in the Orange Bowl a couple of years ago. He didn't come here to sit on the bench, and we expect to see him early and often this year. On the other side, look for Tyreek Chappell to be the starter. Jarred Kerr and Deuce Harmon will be in the mix as well.

Antonio Johnson left a big hole on defense when he left early for the NFL, but Bryce Anderson continues to show improvement and drew rave reviews from the coaching staff during the spring. The Aggies will also welcome transfer sophomore Sam McCall from Florida State and newcomers Dalton Brooks, Jayvon Thomas, and Bravion Rogers to give the Aggies some depth.

One of the biggest surprises of the off-season was the announcement of the return of fifth-year senior Demani Richardson. Granted another year of eligibility due to COVID, he is undoubtedly the leader of the Texas A&M defense. He led the team in tackles last year and had two scoring plays against Arkansas and LSU that were instrumental in those victories.

At the other safety position, we expect to see Jardin Gilbert, who had 61 tackles and two interceptions as a starter last year. Jacoby Matthews and Jared Kerr will add depth, and the safety room is one of the most talented groups on the team.

Our special teams unit is one of the strongest in the nation. We are beginning with senior punter Nik Constantinou, one of the country's most reliable punters. Sometimes we can take for granted what a gift it is to roll Nik out onto the field and change the whole momentum of a game by pinning someone deep in their territory or getting us out of the shadow of our goalpost. Jimbo also added punter/kicker Tyler White from Southlake Carroll in the 2023 recruiting class.

Kicker Randy Bond is back after replacing Caden Davis as field goal kicker early in the season and never looking back. He made 13 of 17 field goal attempts, including a 51-yarder, and was perfect on extra points nailing 25 through the uprights.

We will have a new long snapper this season as our 12th Man, Connor Choate, has moved on. Look for junior Jacob Graham and redshirt freshman Levi Hancock to compete for the starting job.

Mr Everything Ainnias Smith will be returning punts once again, along with Moose Muhammad III. Look for Senior Jalen Preston to return kickoffs and RS freshman Ethan Moczulski to compete as a kickoff specialist.

The sky is the limit for this year's team. The Aggies have the talent and the coaching to make it to the CFP Playoffs for the first time. The key is to stay healthy, for our student-athletes to take care of business on and off the field, and for us to take one play at a time, fight for the extra inch and make the standard be the standard every practice. Last year's perfect storm is over, and the Aggies are ready to bounce back because the dawn has come, and it's time to play Fightin' Texas Aggie Football! ■



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. NEW MEXICO	OCT. 14	@ TENNESSEE
SEP. 9	@ MIAMI	OCT. 28	VS. S CAROLINA
SEP. 16	VS. ULM	NOV. 4	@ OLE MISS
SEP. 23	VS. AUBURN	NOV. 11	VS. MISS ST
SEP. 30	VS. ARKANSAS	NOV. 18	VS. ACU
OCT. 7	VS. ALABAMA	NOV. 25	@ LSU

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	5 - 7
CONFERENCE	2 - 6
HOME	4 - 3
AWAY	0 - 4
NEUTRAL	1 - 0

01

NEW MEXICO



Texas A&M opens the season against the Lobos of New Mexico. Last season the team from Albuquerque struggled to a 2-10 record. Head coach Danny Gonzales enters his fourth year at the reins, but he welcomes two new coordinators this season. Bryant Vincent will be in charge of the offense, while Troy Reffett will take over as defensive coordinator. Vincent joins the team after his second stint at UAB, where he was the OC and quarterbacks coach before becoming interim head coach during the '22 season. Reffett was promoted to DC after serving the last three years as the corners coach. Under his tutelage, redshirt senior Donte Martin led all corners in pass breakups and tackles. The Lobos allowed 157 yards per game last year on the ground and 202 through the air. Gonzales hopes his new offensive coordinator can light a fire under an offense that averaged only 13 points a game last season. The Lobos added a couple of Vincent's former players that followed him from UAB, quarterback Dylan Hopkins and wide receiver Ryan Davis.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	@ TEXAS A&M	OCT. 21	VS. HAWAII
SEP. 10	VS. TENNESSEE TECH	OCT. 28	@ NEVADA
SEP. 16	VS. NEW MEXICO ST	NOV. 4	VS. UNLV
SEP. 23	@ UMASS	NOV. 11	@ BOISE ST
SEP. 30	@ WYOMING	NOV. 18	@ FRESNO ST
OCT. 14	VS. SAN JOSE ST	NOV. 24	VS. UTAH ST

2022 RECORD

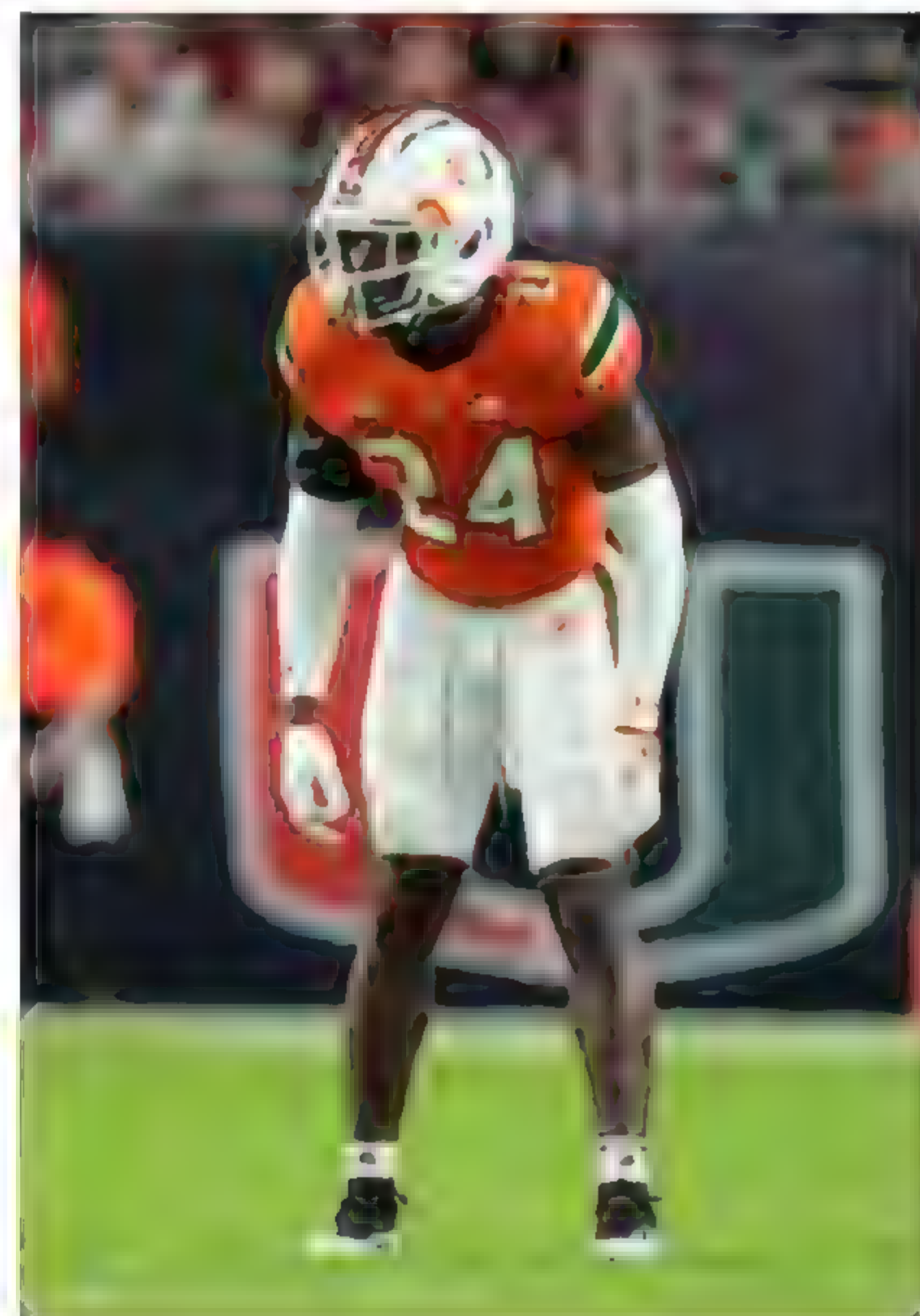
OVERALL	2 - 10
CONFERENCE	0 - 8
HOME	2 - 4
AWAY	0 - 6
NEUTRAL	0 - 0

02

MIAMI



Head coach Mario Cristobal has stockpiled talent over the last year and is ready to put the Canes back in the national spotlight after a disappointing first year in Miami. He has also added a new play caller in Shannon Dawson, who spent the last four years lighting up the scoreboard at the University of Houston. Dawson's Cougar offense was No. 8 nationally in passing offense last year. The Canes return quarterback Tyler Van Dyke who suffered from a shoulder injury last year but threw for 2,931 yards and 26 touchdowns in 2021 to earn ACC Rookie of the Year honors. The defense is also under new leadership after Kevin Steele left the program to return to Bama. Lance Guidry takes over for Steele after a one-year stop at Marshall as the Thundering Herd's DC. The Hurricanes bring back All-American safety Kamren Kinchens who leads a talented group of players added via the portal. This will be a tough early test for the Aggies that could determine what kind of season this will be. A win would solidify expectations, and a loss could be detrimental.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 1	VS. MIAMI (OHIO)	OCT. 21	VS. CLEMSON
SEP. 9	VS. TEXAS A&M	OCT. 28	VS. VIRGINIA
SEP. 14	VS. BETHUNE-COOKMAN	NOV. 4	@ NC ST
SEP. 23	@ TEMPLE	NOV. 11	@ FLORIDA ST
OCT. 7	VS. GEORGIA TECH	NOV. 18	VS. LOUISVILLE
OCT. 14	@ NORTH CAROLINA	NOV. 24	@ BOSTON COLLEGE

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	5 - 7
CONFERENCE	3 - 5
HOME	2 - 5
AWAY	3 - 2
NEUTRAL	0 - 0

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNM ATHLETICS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ATHLETICS



The Aggies return home for game three and welcome to Kyle Field the Warhawks of ULM. The Hawks are led by Terry Bowden, the son of Jimbo's long-time mentor, Bobby Bowden. Terry has compiled a head coaching record of 179-122-2. Just three short years ago, ULM suffered through a 0-10 record in which they never led a game. Under his direction, the Warhawks have gone 4-8 the last two seasons with the 21st toughest schedules in the country. They even upset Liberty in his first year as a 32-point underdog. The Aggies are more talented at every position, but the coaching on the other sideline is nothing to dismiss. Coach Bowden will try to take the air out of the ball with a power-running game and use up as much clock as possible. App State used the same game plan last year, and before we knew it, the game was in the fourth quarter. ULM averaged just 22 points a game last season while giving up 34 points a contest. They averaged 120 yards on the ground and 205 through the air. This should be a tune-up game before conference play.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. ARMY	OCT. 21	@ GEORGIA SOUTHERN
SEP. 9	VS. LAMAR	OCT. 28	VS. ARKANSAS ST
SEP. 16	@ TEXAS A&M	NOV. 4	@ SOUTHERN MISS
SEP. 30	VS. APP ST	NOV. 11	VS. TROY
OCT. 7	VS. SOUTH ALABAMA	NOV. 18	@ OLE MISS
OCT. 14	@ TEXAS ST	NOV. 25	@ LOUISIANA LA

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	4 - 8
CONFERENCE	3 - 5
HOME	3 - 2
AWAY	1 - 6
NEUTRAL	0 - 0

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ULM ATHLETICS



Last year's loss to the Tigers was a tough one as the Aggies went into a sold-out Jordan-Hare Stadium and faced an interim head coach that pulled his team together for one big win. This year the Aggies will have the home-field advantage and face a brand new head coach in Hugh Freeze. The Tigers went 11-14 over the last two seasons and are hoping Freeze can turn things around. One of the biggest questions is who will be under center when the Tigers take the field this fall. Robby Ashford started the final nine games last year after taking over for LSU transfer T.J. Finley, who competed against him again in the spring before deciding to transfer again to Texas State. Freeze added Michigan State transfer Payton Thorne in May, so we will see who earns the job after fall camp. The passing game struggled last year, but the Tigers were able to rush for over 300 yards against us last season using Tank Bigsby and Jarquez Hunter. Bigsby was drafted by the Jaguars, and Hunter has been suspended indefinitely, leaving the Tigers with a question mark there as well.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. UMASS	OCT. 21	VS. OLE MISS
SEP. 9	@ CALIFORNIA	OCT. 28	VS. MISS ST
SEP. 16	VS. SAMFORD	NOV. 4	@ VANDERBILT
SEP. 23	@ TEXAS A&M	NOV. 11	@ ARKANSAS
SEP. 30	VS. GEORGIA	NOV. 18	VS. NEW MEXICO ST
OCT. 14	@ LSU	NOV. 25	VS. ALABAMA

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	5 - 7
CONFERENCE	2 - 6
HOME	5 - 3
AWAY	0 - 4
NEUTRAL	0 - 0

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUBURN ATHLETICS



The Aggies were a goalpost away from losing this game last year, and with only two games left at Jerry World, this one should be another tough one again. Quarterback KJ Jefferson returns, but his play caller Kendal Briles has returned to the Lone Star State as the OC for TCU. Dan Enos returns to Arkansas and will install a run-pass option scheme for the Razorbacks. The Hogs used the portal and have lots of talent at wideout, and they return junior Raheim "Rocket" Sanders in the backfield as one of the best running backs in the country. Head coach Sam Pittman added Travis Williams and Marcus Woodson, who will be co-coordinators on defense. The defense gave up 465 yards per game last year and over 30 points. Williams was an All-SEC linebacker at Auburn and came to Arkansas after being a DC for UCF for the last two years. Woodson played safety at Ole Miss and spent the last three seasons coaching defensive backs at Florida St. The two men coached together at Auburn and hope to bring back the success they had as they co-coordinate the Hog defense.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. W CAROLINA	OCT. 14	@ ALABAMA
SEP. 9	VS. KENT ST	OCT. 21	VS. MISS ST
SEP. 16	VS. BYU	NOV. 4	@ FLORIDA
SEP. 23	@ LSU	NOV. 11	VS. AUBURN
SEP. 30	VS. TEXAS A&M	NOV. 18	VS. FLORIDA INTL
OCT. 7	@ OLE MISS	NOV. 24	VS. MISSOURI

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	7 - 6
CONFERENCE	3 - 5
HOME	4 - 3
AWAY	2 - 2
NEUTRAL	1 - 1



Last year's game was a heartbreaker, as the Aggies were one play away from beating #1 Alabama in Tuscaloosa. This year the Aggies get to host the Tide, and with the talent and experience we return, the team not only thinks they can win, but they know they can win. Last year the Tide had the best offensive player in the nation in Bryce Young, and the best defensive player in the nation in Will Anderson. This season the Tide has three quarterbacks battling for the starting job; Tyler Buchner (Notre Dame transfer), Jalen Milroe, and Ty Simpson. It looks like the battle will continue into fall camp. Nick Saban added new offensive coordinator Tommy Rees who played and coached at Notre Dame. According to reports, he will be running Saban's playbook, not the one he coached in South Bend. Saban wants to get back to running the ball behind a five-star offensive line and senior Jase McClellan in the backfield as his young quarterbacks get some experience. DC Kevin Steel returns to Tuscaloosa for his third stint with loads of talented young players on that side of the ball.

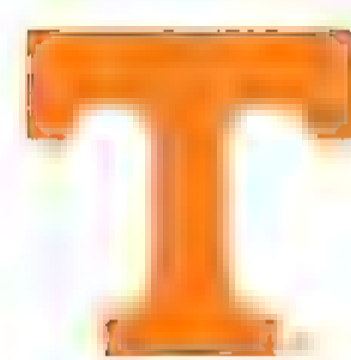


2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. MIDDLE TENN	OCT. 14	VS. ARKANSAS
SEP. 9	VS. TEXAS	OCT. 21	VS. TENNESSEE
SEP. 16	@ S FLORIDA	NOV. 4	VS. LSU
SEP. 23	VS. OLE MISS	NOV. 11	@ KENTUCKY
SEP. 30	@ MISS ST	NOV. 18	VS. CHATTANOOGA
OCT. 7	@ TEXAS A&M	NOV. 25	@ AUBURN

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	11 - 2
CONFERENCE	6 - 2
HOME	7 - 0
AWAY	3 - 2
NEUTRAL	1 - 0



For only the third time since joining the conference, the Aggies will take on the Volunteers. The Aggies defeated UT in double overtime in College Station in '16 and beat them again 34-13 in December 2020. Head coach Josh Heupel has turned things around in Knoxville. Last year the Vols went 11-2 with big wins over #1 Alabama and #7 Clemson. Hendon Hooker was a huge part of their success last year, but he is now with the Detroit Lions. Senior Joe Milton or five-star freshman Nico Iamaleava will have to try and fill his shoes. The Vols led the nation in total offense last year, averaging 525 yards per game. Milton showed he is ready to do that with a big-time performance against Clemson in the Orange Bowl win. The Vols return Bru McCoy and Squirrel White, who combined for over 1,000 yards in receiving last year, and Jabari Small, Jaylen Wright, and Dylan Sampson in the backfield. The defense has improved from the previous year, but the secondary ranked 127 in the nation allowing 290 yards per game.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. VIRGINIA	OCT. 21	@ ALABAMA
SEP. 9	VS. AUSTIN PEAY	OCT. 28	@ KENTUCKY
SEP. 16	@ FLORIDA	NOV. 4	VS. UCONN
SEP. 23	@ UTSA	NOV. 11	@ MISSOURI
SEP. 30	VS. S CAROLINA	NOV. 18	VS. GEORGIA
OCT. 14	VS. TEXAS A&M	NOV. 25	VS. VANDERBILT

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	11 - 2
CONFERENCE	6 - 2
HOME	7 - 0
AWAY	3 - 2
NEUTRAL	1 - 0



Coach Shane Beamer has things rolling at South Carolina. The Gamecocks had big wins over #5 Tennessee and #7 Clemson to end the regular season. The Aggies have dominated the series 8-1 and have this one marked on the calendar. Spencer Rattler flirted with the idea of leaving school early but decided to return along with his favorite target Juice Wells. New offensive coordinator Dowell Loggains joins the Cocks after one year as tight ends coach at Arkansas. He has been an offensive coordinator for four NFL teams. SC will have to establish a running game with their top returning back being junior Juju McDowell, who only had 219 rushing yards last season. The Gamecocks have encountered significant changes in their defensive lineup, as they bid farewell to the majority of their defensive line and both of their starting linebackers. However, there is a glimmer of hope in the form of the talented safeties, Nick Emmanwori and DQ Smith, who will be returning to fortify the secondary.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. NORTH CAROLINA	OCT. 21	@ MISSOURI
SEP. 9	VS. FURMAN	OCT. 28	@ TEXAS A&M
SEP. 16	@ GEORGIA	NOV. 4	VS. JACKSONVILLE ST
SEP. 23	VS. MISS ST	NOV. 11	VS. VANDERBILT
SEP. 30	@ TENNESSEE	NOV. 18	VS. KENTUCKY
OCT. 14	VS. FLORIDA	NOV. 25	VS. CLEMSON

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	8 - 5
CONFERENCE	4 - 4
HOME	5 - 2
AWAY	3 - 2
NEUTRAL	0 - 1



With the exception of the Alabama game, this has got to be the game that Jimbo Fisher wants to win the most. Head Coach Lane Kiffin continues to take jabs at Fisher and the Aggies via social media regularly. Last season rumors were rampant that Auburn would be going after Kiffin to be their next head coach. The school responded with an increase of \$2 million, making him one of the nation's top 10 highest-paid college football coaches. He accepted the deal, and the Rebels would finish the season on a four-game losing streak. The Aggies have lost to the Rebels the last two years, and this game could be the difference in the success of our season. Since Kiffin is the offensive play caller, he decided to go out and get a new DC. Pete Golding was hired in January. He is the former defensive coordinator of the Alabama Crimson Tide. Kiffin has three options at quarterback; Jaxson Dart, Spencer Sanders, and Walker Howard. Ole Miss returns running back Quinshon Judkins, who rushed for 1,567 yards and 16 touchdowns.



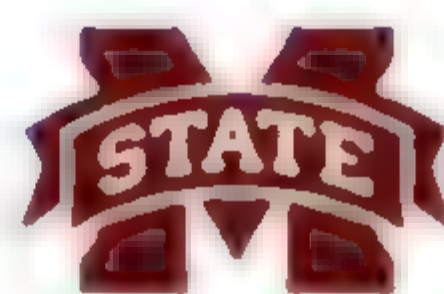
2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. MERCER	OCT. 21	@ AUBURN
SEP. 9	@ TULANE	OCT. 28	VS. VANDERBILT
SEP. 16	VS. GEORGIA TECH	NOV. 4	VS. TEXAS A&M
SEP. 23	@ ALABAMA	NOV. 11	@ GEORGIA
SEP. 30	VS. LSU	NOV. 18	VS. ULM
OCT. 7	VS. ARKANSAS	NOV. 23	@ MISS ST

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	8 - 5
CONFERENCE	4 - 4
HOME	5 - 2
AWAY	3 - 2
NEUTRAL	0 - 1

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSHUA MCCOY/OLE MISS ATHLETICS



After the passing of Mike Leach, there is a new head coach in Starkville and a new offensive coordinator. In order to steady the ship, the administration promoted from within, making former defensive coordinator Zach Arnett the new head coach. Arnett went out and hired Appalachian State OC Kevin Barbay to be his new play caller. Barbay will shift away from the Air Raid offense and attempt to install a more balanced offense. Once again, the Aggies will face senior quarterback Will Rogers, who has already thrown for over 10,000 yards in his career. MSU brings back an experienced crew of four-year players in Jo'quavious Marks at running back and Jaden Walley and Lideatrick Griffin at wide-outs. The Dogs also return a very experienced offensive line that will have to learn the new system. Taking over as DC will be the former linebackers coach that was promoted in Matt Brock. So there should be little change in Arnett's defensive scheme. Mississippi St. returns the teams leading tacklers in linebackers Jett Johnson and Nathaniel Watson.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 2	VS. SE LOUISIANA	OCT. 21	@ ARKANSAS
SEP. 9	VS. ARIZONA	OCT. 28	@ AUBURN
SEP. 16	VS. LSU	NOV. 4	VS. KENTUCKY
SEP. 23	@ S CAROLINA	NOV. 11	@ TEXAS A&M
SEP. 30	VS. ALABAMA	NOV. 18	VS. S MISS
OCT. 7	VS. W MICHIGAN	NOV. 23	VS. OLE MISS

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	9 - 4
CONFERENCE	4 - 4
HOME	6 - 1
AWAY	2 - 3
NEUTRAL	1 - 0

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI STATE ATHLETICS

11

ABILENE CHRISTIAN



In week 11, the Aggies host the Wildcats of Abilene Christian University. Head Coach Keith Patterson is in his second year with the program. Last year under his direction, the team went 7-4 and played for a conference title. It was the first time since 2018 for the team to finish the season with a winning record. Ryan Pugh is the offensive coordinator, and in his first season with the team, ACU averaged 28 points a game. The team averaged 140 yards on the ground and over 250 through the air. Senior Maverick McIvor threw for over 2,000 yards and 16 touchdowns last season. His top returning target is wide receiver Tristan Golightly who averaged almost 16 yards a catch. Jeremiah Dobbins and Rovaughn Banks Jr. handled the backfield work and combined for over 1200 yards last year. The defensive coordinator is Skyler Cassity, who was just recently recognized in Dave Campbell's Texas Football 40 Under 40 Award. His defense allowed 20.5 points per game last year, which led the conference.



2023 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	VS. N COLORADO	OCT. 21	@ STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
SEP. 9	@ PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	OCT. 28	@ SOUTHERN UTAH
SEP. 16	VS. UIW	NOV. 4	VS. UTAH TECH
SEP. 23	@ CENTRAL ARKANSAS	NOV. 11	VS. TARLETON
SEP. 30	@ N TEXAS	NOV. 11	@ TEXAS A&M
OCT. 14	VS. N ALABAMA		

2022 RECORD

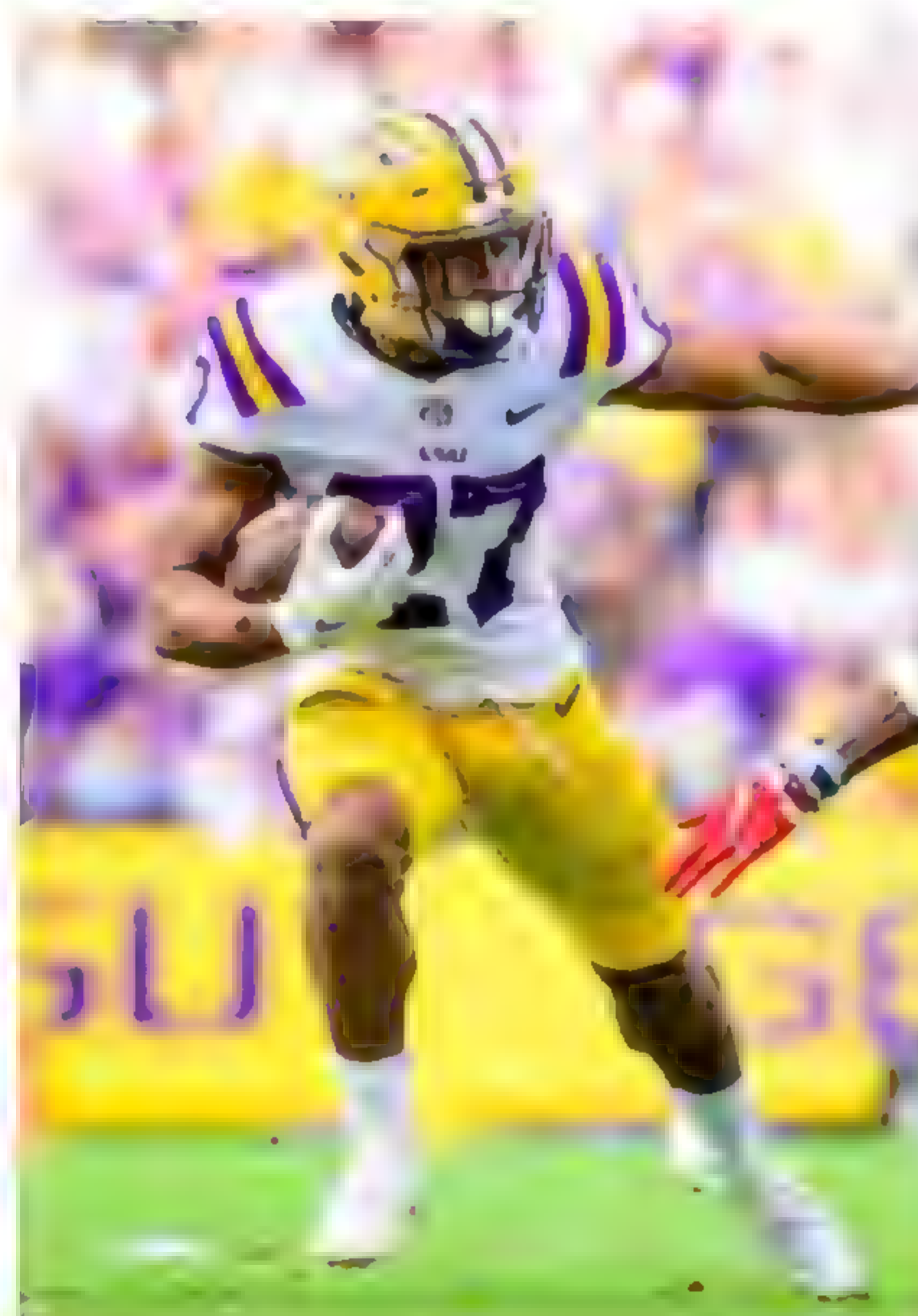
OVERALL	7 - 4
CONFERENCE	3 - 1
HOME	4 - 1
AWAY	3 - 3
NEUTRAL	0 - 0

12

LSU



Last year the Aggies were finally able to put everything together and played their best game of the year to beat #6 LSU and knock them out of possible contention to play in the CFP Playoffs. This year the Aggies will travel to Baton Rouge for the rematch. Experts believe that Coach Brian Kelly, who won the SEC West title in his debut season, is poised to make a run at the CFP Playoff this year. Quarterback Jayden Daniels returns motivated to increase his stock value in next year's NFL Draft. He generated more than 3800 yards of total offense last year with 29 touchdowns. The Tigers return eight starters from their potent offense, including all five of their offensive linemen. The Patriots drafted Kayshon Boutte, but the rest of their top receivers are back. Daniels led the team in rushing, but Josh Williams returns after missing three games last season due to injuries. Former A&M commit Harold Perkins Jr. leads the Tiger defense, which will also feature former Aggie Denver Harris in the secondary.



2023 SCHEDULE

SEP. 3	VS. FLORIDA ST	OCT. 14	VS. AUBURN
SEP. 9	VS. GRAMBLING ST	OCT. 21	VS. ARMY
SEP. 16	@ MISS ST	NOV. 4	@ ALABAMA
SEP. 23	VS. ARKANSAS	NOV. 11	VS. FLORIDA
SEP. 30	@ OLE MISS	NOV. 18	VS. GEORGIA ST
OCT. 7	@ MISSOURI	NOV. 25	VS. TEXAS A&M

2022 RECORD

OVERALL	10 - 4
CONFERENCE	6 - 2
HOME	6 - 1
AWAY	3 - 1
NEUTRAL	1 - 2

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LSU ATHLETICS



12TH MAN FILMS ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

ALL AMERICAN | THE DAT NGUYEN STORY

BY ROB HAVENS '88



12th Man Films has done it again! They have produced a world-class, full-length documentary that all Aggies must see. Last summer, they brought us "Standing Room Only / The Legend of the 12th Man." And this summer, they released the inspiring story of Dat Nguyen.

The media were invited for a prescreening of the film that took place in the JWS Lettermen's Club inside Kyle Field. The 57-minute documentary was produced, written, edited, and directed by Chris Sabo of 12th Man Films.

The film takes us back to Nguyen's family's courageous escape from Vietnam by boat in the middle of the night as bombs exploded around them while Dat was still in his mother's womb. Rescued by an American military ship, Dat's family made it to America, where they eventually settled in the Texas Gulf coast city of Rockport.

The problems for the Nguyen family didn't end there; as the film explains, refugees from Vietnam struggled to integrate into American society. They took low-paying jobs, trying to earn enough money to buy their own boats to get into the fishing industry. Local fishermen saw this as a threat to their own businesses, which created tension and fighting in the area.

The film shows interviews with Dat's sister, friends, and even his childhood soccer coach that explain the tough environment that the family endured as they tried to make a new home in America.

It wasn't until Dat started to play football that things began to change. Dat explains that he knew nothing about the sport until he tried for the first time. He even laughed about not knowing how to place the hip and knee pads into the pockets of his football pants.

But Dat was a natural and soon became the team's best player at several positions including punting and field goal kicking. Nguyen's skills as a varsity player on the high school team were outstanding, making him a game-changer on the

field and a difference-maker in the stands. Over time, fans began to see him as a beloved player rather than just a Vietnamese refugee. According to his cousin, you couldn't love Dat on the field and then not like him off the field as well. As a result, the entire community began to shift its perspective. They were all a family cheering on their Rockport-Fulton High School Pirates on Friday nights.

Nguyen's success on the high school field drew the attention of college football coaches nationwide. Dat shares a story of Michigan Wolverine Head Football Coach Gary Moeller showing up on his doorstep the first morning that coaches were allowed to visit recruits.

Dat had a tough time deciding which college to attend. He prayed to God one night for guidance. He decided to choose the school that came to his mind first when he woke up in the morning. The following morning, he woke up with "Gig'em Aggies" on his mind and ultimately decided to attend Texas A&M.

The film shows interviews of Dat's former teammates and coaches, who reveal stories of his arrival at A&M. Not knowing what to expect, he arrived in College Station at 5'10, 240 lbs. He says some of the guys referred to him as "Fat Dat." It was a tough start for him as he went from being "The Man" in high school to sitting on the bench and being redshirted.

Dat had been contemplating a transfer until he had a meeting with the defensive coordinator, Phil Bennett. Who told him, "You're too fat!" and advised him to use the winter break to shed some weight, return in the spring, and give his all. If, after camp, he still wanted to leave, Bennett and RC would assist him in finding a new team.

That conversation was a game changer as Dat went to work, lost weight, and when he came back for the first spring meeting, he looked like a different player. The Aggie defense was still in its heyday of being called the wrecking crew. Dat was still second team behind Trent Driver until the fall of 1995 when before the first game of the season against LSU, the players ran sprints after



practice, and Driver turned his ankle on a sprinkler head. That allowed Dat Nguyen to get the start in the game. He went out as a redshirt freshman and showed the nation what he could do. He would go on to have an outstanding career at Texas A&M, earning the nickname Double Digit Dat by the media for his ability to get double-digit tackles in every game.

Dat Nguyen would go on to be a consensus All-American in 1998. He is still the all-time leader in tackles, with over 500 in his A&M career. He is the only Aggie to win the Lombardi and Bednarik Awards. He helped the Aggies win the Big 12 Championship over #1 Kansas St in 1998.

After his career at A&M, the Dallas Cowboys selected him in the third round of the 1999 NFL Draft. While most experts didn't expect him to prosper in the NFL because of his size, Dat defied the odds again and became an All-Pro during his seven seasons with the team. Dat is the only Vietnamese American ever to be drafted in the NFL.

He would go on to coach two years with the Cowboys and two years with the Aggies. Today, he owns and operates a Chick-Fil-A franchise in Fort Worth, Texas.

The documentary not only gives the viewer an insider's look at his life on the gridiron, but one of the most poignant scenes is a story of Dat helping a Vietnamese elementary student in Bryan that couldn't speak English and how Nguyen helped to change his life.

The film does an amazing job of telling Dat's story with footage from the difficulties in Vietnam to his high school playing days, showing the highlights of his dominance at A&M and overcoming obstacles along the way. We even get a look at how he runs his restaurant with the same strategy, insight, and hard work he displayed as a linebacker on the football field. And he continues to give back every step of the way. He really is an All-American Legend. ■





STUDENT REC CENTER



SOUTHSIDE REC CENTER



POLO ROAD REC CENTER



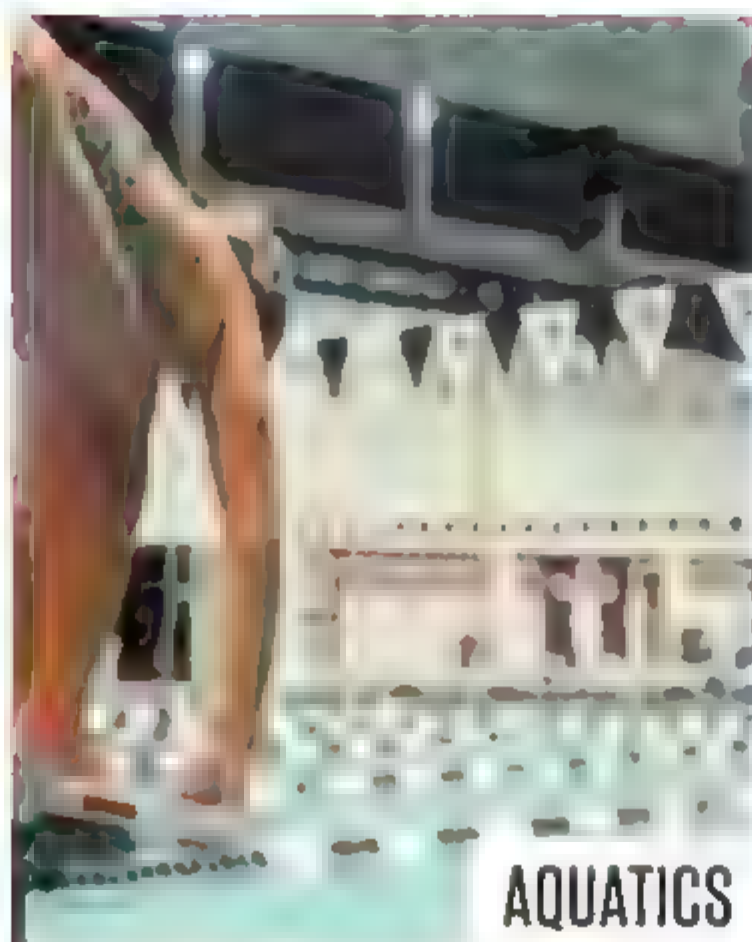
PENBERTHY REC SPORTS COMPLEX



PEAP BUILDING & TENNIS COURTS

TEXAS A&M REC SPORTS

DISCOVER YOUR REC SPORTS LIFE



AQUATICS



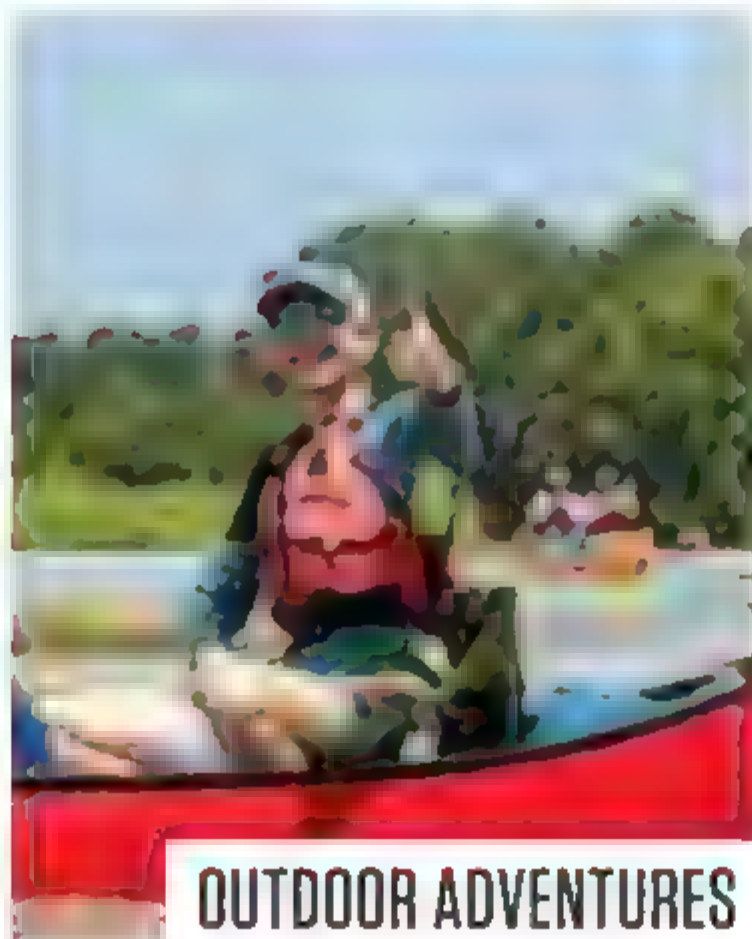
FITNESS & WELLNESS



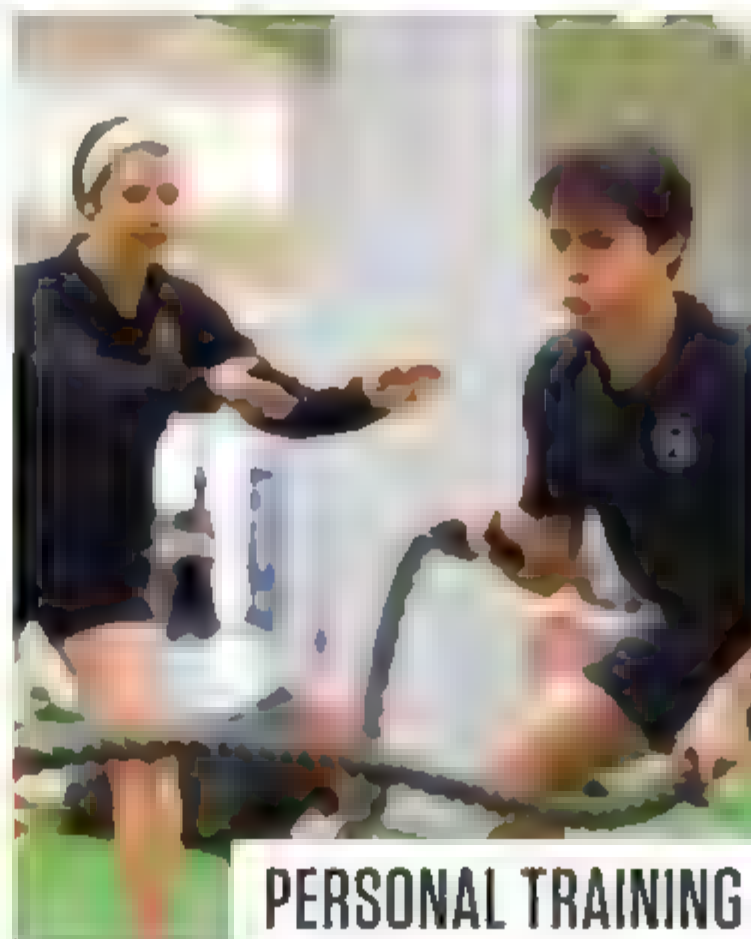
INDOOR CLIMBING FACILITY



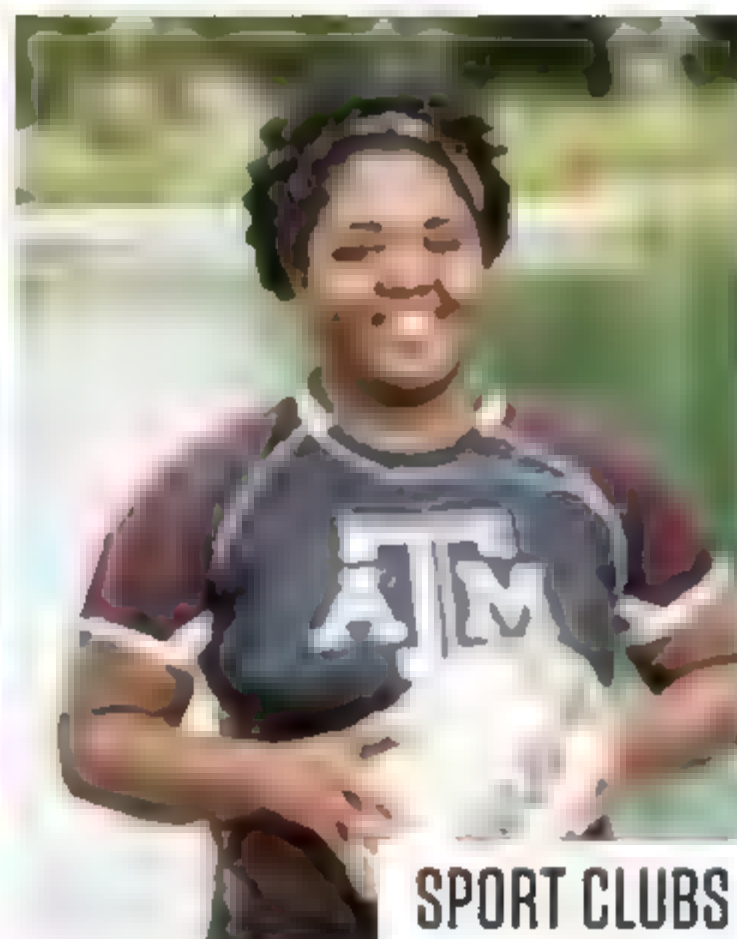
INTRAMURAL SPORTS



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



PERSONAL TRAINING



SPORT CLUBS

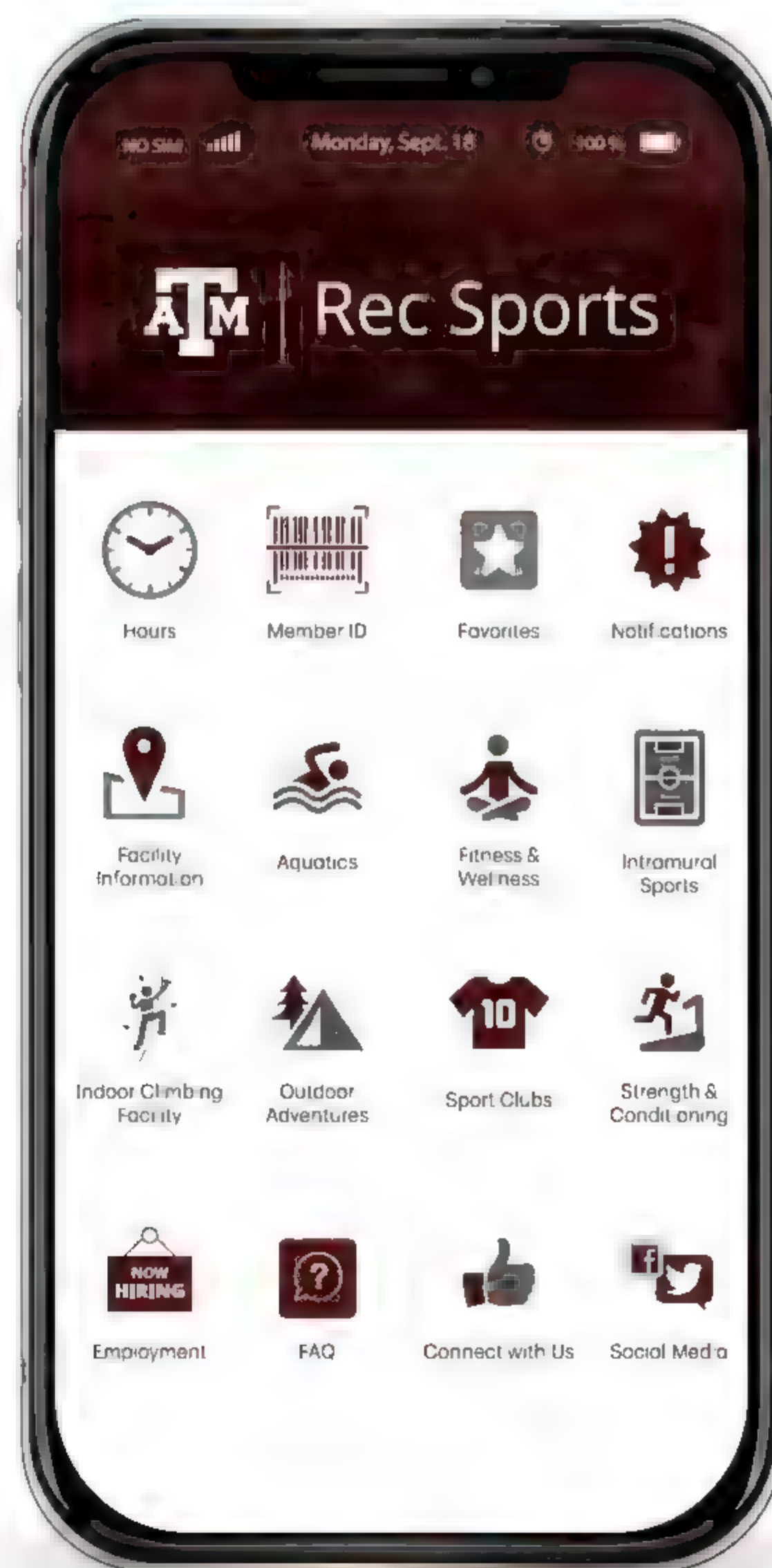


STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

REC SPORTS IS HIRING



With more than 1,000 student employees, Rec Sports is the largest student employer on campus. Visit recsports.tamu.edu/employment or scan the QR code for more details.



DOWNLOAD
THE REC SPORTS APP



Scan the QR code above or visit recsports.tamu.edu/app for more details.



Rec Sports

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

FIVE TEXAS A&M SPORT CLUBS BRING HOME NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The Texas A&M Sport Clubs Association presents unique opportunities for student-athletes to compete locally, regionally, and sometimes even on a national level. Over the 40 plus years of Texas A&M Sport Clubs, our programs have set the bar at a super high level, bringing home over 375 individual and team national championships. Last year, five of our clubs brought home team national championships in their sports.

Our Cycling Club competed in the 2022 USA Cycling Collegiate Track National Championships in Indianapolis, IN and brought home the coveted Team Omnium Award. The competition consisted of several races of different distances over a few days in a velodrome, which is a bicycle-racing track with steeply sloping sides.

The Water Ski Club won the Division 2 National Collegiate Water Ski Association Championship. According to Club President Sam Murdy, dealing with COVID restrictions affected the club's ability to recruit and develop the club members. He explained that most of their new members join with a limited amount of competition experience, and they train them so that when they become upperclassmen, they can compete at a high level. Murdy said, "For years, our team has routinely competed strongly in Division One, so for us to be able to win the Division Two title and fight and earn our way back to our standing was a huge achievement both for our team externally,

as well as a boost in internal excitement."

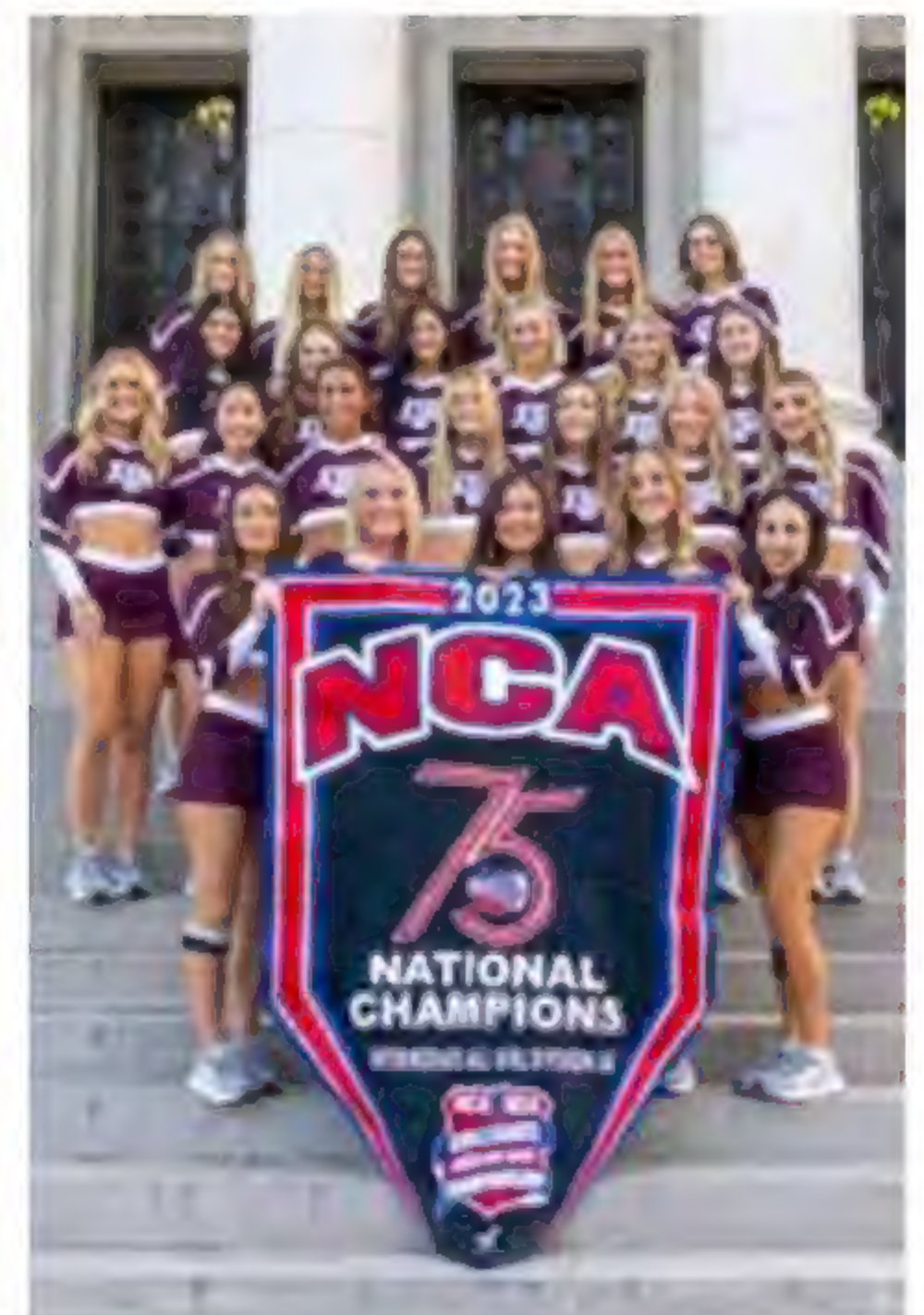
Texas A&M Cheer Squad won the NCA All-Girl Intermediate Collegiate National Championship for the third time. "I can't even begin to explain the feeling of becoming a national champion," said President Julissa Flores. "You're surrounded by the most talented athletes in the country. It's intimidating, stressful, painful, and intense. Only one team from each division becomes champions. You work day and night all year to have only 2 minutes and 30 seconds to prove to the panel of judges that you are the best. All in all, it's a make-or-break situation." After the girls hit the floor and rocked out their routine, they waited with the other teams to hear the final results. Flores explained, "Hearing your name called last is an indescribable feeling- circling up on the floor, holding hands, and jumping for joy as the arena cheers for the Texas A&M Cheer Squad."

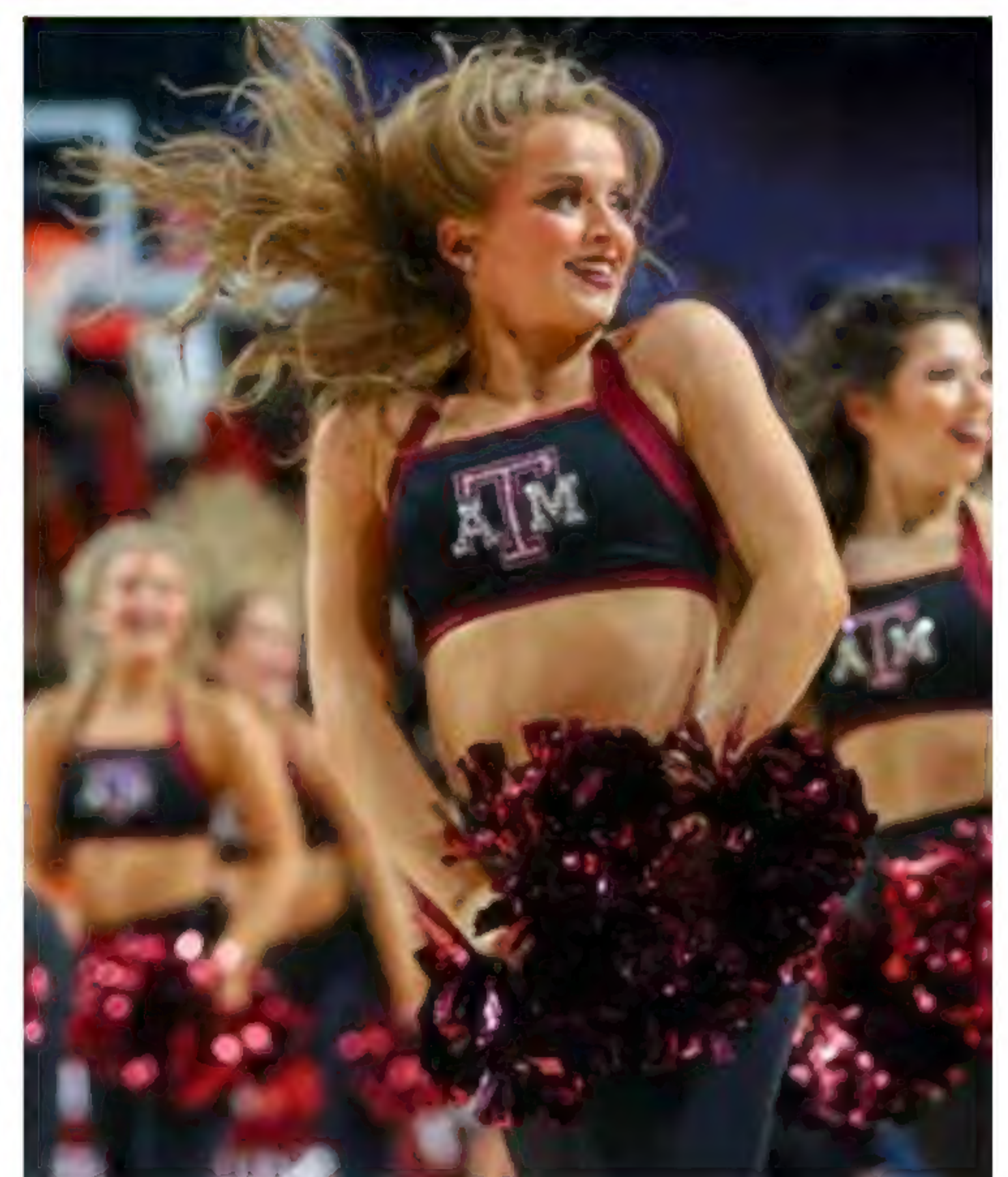
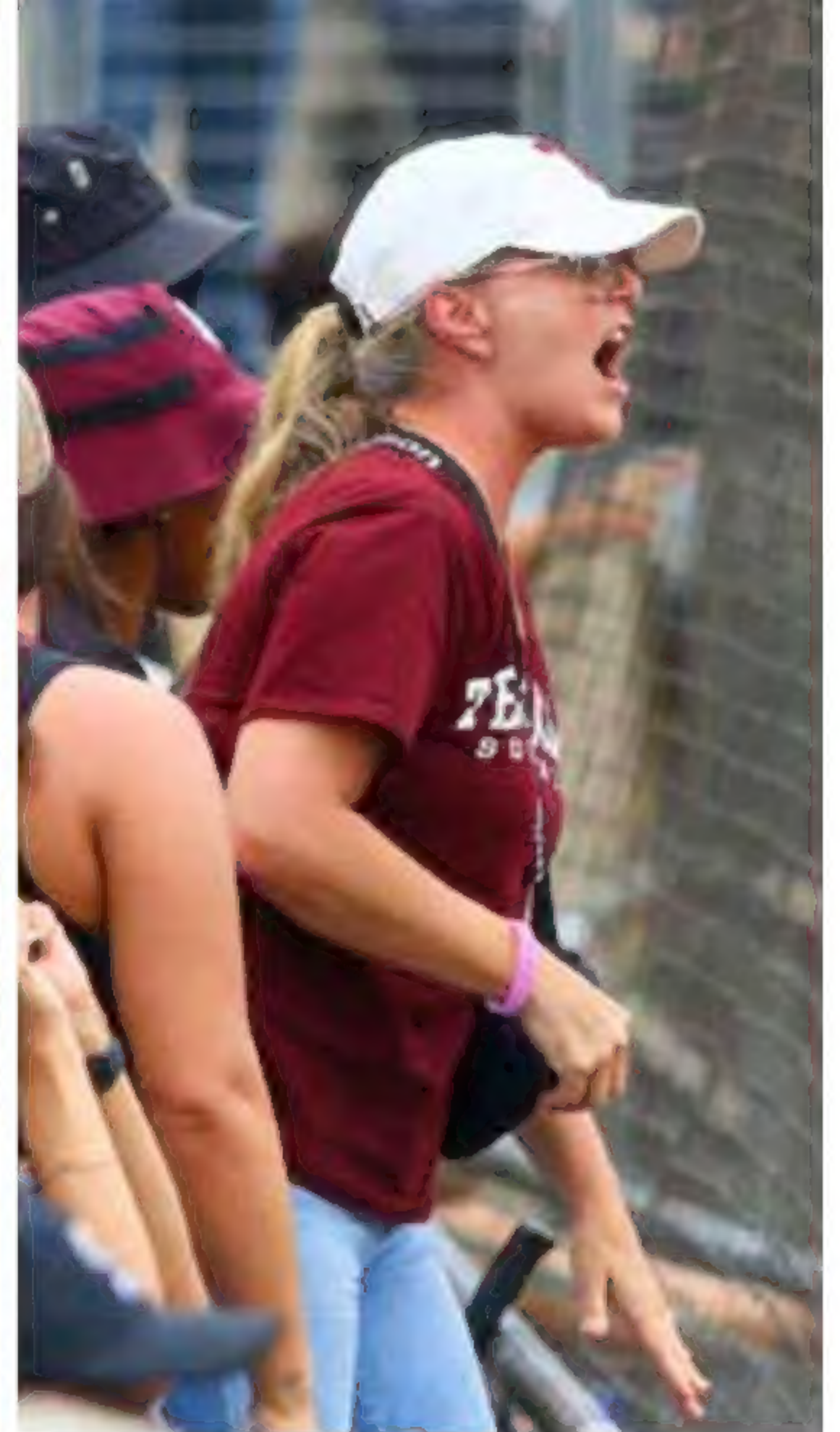
Our Trap & Skeet Shooting team earned their third national championship in a row at the 2023 ACUI Clay Target National Championship with a score of 2888/3000. The first and second-place teams finished the competition by a margin of only 18 targets. Club President Grace Mabry said, "We had to fight down to our last event to complete the 3-peat." The clubs competed in five different events; Doubles Skeet, Doubles Trap, Super Sporting, Skeet, and Sporting Clays. The Aggies secured first in Division I in five of those events. Additionally, club member Sydnee

Craven '25 won the Women's High Overall trophy and became the 2023 Women's ACUI National Champion with a score of 560 targets hit out of 600. Mabry said, "We are so excited to have been able to bring another championship trophy back to Aggieland and are looking forward to competing again in the spring."

The Texas A&M Women's Polo team captured the USPA Collegiate National Championship in an overtime shootout against the defending national champion on their home field. Trailing at the half, the Aggies came back, taking advantage of penalty shots to tie up the score at 12 at the end of regulation. With the teams tied at the end of the first round of overtime penalties, the game went into a second round. Following unsuccessful attempts from the other five players, Club President Olivia Reynolds calmly stepped up and knocked in the winning goal. Reynolds reflected, "This means everything to me. To be my first year as captain and to lead this young team to the finals and make the winning goal, that was unreal."

All five clubs worked hard and put in hundreds of hours of practice to reach the pinnacle of their sport. They joined together as a team to overcome obstacles and reach a desired goal. In the process, they became a tight-knit group that most consider a family. Cheer Squad President Julissa Flores declared, "Winning is great, but there is nothing sweeter than becoming champions with your family." ■







THE 12TH MAN

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

PO BOX 6841 • BRYAN, TX 77805-6841
979-229-8046 | www.aggimag.com

 @aggimag
 @aggielandillustrated
 Aggieland Illustrated Magazine

PRSRT STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 69
COLLEGE STATION, TX

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



PARAGON

FINANCIAL ADVISORS

FEE-ONLY WEALTH MANAGEMENT YOU CAN TRUST



WWW.PARAGON-ADV.COM | 979-693-3907

215 ROCK PRAIRIE ROAD COLLEGE STATION, TX 77845

FIND US ON:

